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THE CHAT

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Cover Photograph.—Pine Warbler, by Jay Shuler, Greenville, S. C. (strobe lighted).

The Chat

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Of more than passing importance to the Carolina Bird Club is a resolution adopted by the Lenoir Audubon Club at a recent meeting. The resolution is an appeal to the Carolina Bird Club executive committee, and to the membership as a whole, to give full support to a plan to increase the regular membership fees from one dollar to two dollars per year. This is necessary, the Lenoir Audubon Club believes, if CBC is to be able to carry on successfully and render any appreciable service as a conservation group. The resolution was given unanimous support by an almost total membership present.

The Lenoir Audubon Club is active in other constructive ways. Recently it adopted a plan to develop a bird sanctuary on an unused portion of the city school property. This calls for the expenditure of a considerable amount of money, and for a lot of work on the part of the membership. The plans for the sanctuary are in the formation stage at this time, but already a total of approximately one thousand dollars has been subscribed for its initial development. The idea for this sanctuary was conceived by Joe Ingram who was made chairman of a special committee to work it out. Now at every meeting of the club Joe reports more funds available for the work. Actual landscaping and planting of birdfood plants and shrubs will begin early this spring.

The editors of The Chat, and others who contribute departmental copy and ideas, are to be congratulated on the recent recognition given by the Wilson Ornithological Club. The Wilson Bulletin a short time ago added the Chat to the list of publications which it receives and files for research work. All CBC members should feel proud of this honor and recognition given The Chat.

Carolina birders should feel enthused over a trip to the Caribbean Islands planned by the Massachusetts Audubon Society. It is a fourteen day trip from Boston to Jamaica, Cuba, and the Isle of Pines. The party will visit many interesting birding areas on each of the islands. The trip will be made from Boston and return by air. Sure! Some of these days CBC will be planning trips like this.

"Its all in a day's work with us," said Clay Brittain, of the Chesterfield Inn, and Steve Chapman when I thanked them the other day for the way they entertained us and helped us with the plans and activities of the mid-winter field trip to Myrtle Beach on the week end of January 13th. It was more than a day's work they gave us. The same is true of the members of the Myrtle Beach Garden Club, the Brookgreen Gardens folks, and other individuals of Myrtle Beach, Murrell's Inlet, and the whole area. They contributed so much that it made this trip an outstanding one. Out-of-state guests joined in too. No one contributed more to the pleasure and profit of the trips and meeting than did Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Watterman of Poughkeepsie, New York.

Myrtle Beach birds were cooperative too. A count of nearly 120 species were added up when night came. Thrilling displays were put on by Pileated Woodpeckers, Bald Eagles, Gannets, Red-backed Sandpipers and a number of other shore and water birds.

One striking thing about the Myrtle Beach meeting was the presence of so many new faces, members who have not been to meetings in years, or perhaps, have never attended one before. It is very encouraging to see more of these inactive members attending meetings and field trips, joining in and taking a more active part in CBC affairs. Also it was regrettable to note the absence of many of the regulars—the old standbys. Even so, there were 108 registered. The meeting requested that greetings be sent to all of these who were kept from attending because of illness and other reasons.

FRED H. MAY

SUMMER NOTES ON ALTITUDINAL DISTRIBUTION IN THE MOUNTAINS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN STATES IN 1956

HENRY M. STEVENSON

During the course of a quantitative study of life-zone distribution of birds in the Southeastern States,¹ a number of interesting altitudinal records came to light in June and early July, 1956. Inasmuch as the bulk of the field work was in North Carolina and there is no merit in splitting these records among various periodicals, the entire list was prepared for publication in *The Chat*. Attention is called to those few records which have been (or will be) published elsewhere. Since only one specimen was taken (*Empidonax traillii traillii*), sub-specific names have been avoided throughout.

GREEN HERON (*Butorides virescens*). Encountered only at Shady Valley, Tenn., June 11 (altitude 2800 feet), and Cashiers, N. C., June 23 (3600 feet).

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*). As usual, recorded at practically all elevations, but not daily.

COOPER'S HAWK (*Accipiter cooperii*). Seen only on Brasstown Bald, Ga., altitude 3500 feet, June 25.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*Buteo platypterus*). Found at elevations of about 3800 feet at Highlands, N. C., and Brasstown Bald, Ga., and once at 6000 feet in the Black Mountains (near Mt. Mitchell), N. C. (June 14).

SPARROW HAWK (*Falco sparverius*). The highest individual seen was on balds northeast of Roan Mountain at 5500 feet, June 10 (with Fred Behrend). Records almost 2000 feet lower were made at Highlands and Glenville, N. C.

RUFFED GROUSE (*Bonasa umbellus*). A hen was flushed from a brood of 7 downy chicks in the Walnut Mountains, N. C., at 3550 feet, June 9.

BOB-WHITE (*Colinus virginiana*). Not rare in open areas up to 3800 feet, but two singing on Pisgah Ridge, N. C., were at the unusual elevation of 5400 feet, July 3 (*Audubon Field Notes*, 10:384).

KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*). This field-inhabiting plover could not be found above 2800 feet (Shady Valley, Tenn., June 11).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK (*Philohela minor*). Another record at high altitudes was added to the growing list when one was flushed on Pisgah Ridge, N. C., at 5550 feet on July 4.

MOURNING DOVE (*Zenaidura macroura*). Not definitely recorded above 3800 feet at Highlands, N. C., and Brasstown Bald, Ga., and once at 6000

CUCKOO (*Ocyzus* sp.). One was seen in flight too briefly to catch with field glasses at Vilas, N. C., June 12, at an elevation of 2950 feet. Both species seem to be rare at high altitudes in North Carolina.

BARRED OWL (*Strix varia*). One hooting at Lake Phillip Nelson, Tenn., June 11, at 3500 feet (11:45 a.m.), and another below Pisgah Ridge, July 3, at 5100 feet.

WHIP-POOR-WILL (*Caprimulgus vociferus*). Encountered only on Fort Mountain, Georgia, were singing at 2450 feet. On only one other occasion, however, was I in the field until dark.

CHIMNEY SWIFT (*Chaetura pelagica*). As in previous years, this species ranged at all altitudes while feeding.

¹ This study was supported by a National Science Foundation grant, administered through the Highlands, N. C., Biological Station.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*Archilochus colubris*). Records in 1956 ranged up to 4500 or 5000 feet, well below the limits of other years.

BELTED KINGFISHER (*Megasceryle alcyon*). Although it is known to breed in the Transition Zone, all 1956 records were made at lower elevations.

YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER (*Colaptes auratus*). Common up to the Transition Zone, but higher records were as follows: up to 5300 feet in balds northeast of Roan Mountain, June 10 (with Behrend); one at 6400 feet on Mt. Mitchell, N. C., June 14; 5000 feet or above on Pisgah Ridge, N. C., July 3. The Mitchell record seems to be the highest summer record known for this species.

PILEATED WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus pileatus*). Ranged up to 3850 feet near Glenville, N. C., June 20.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*). The fact that the only records for 1956 were made around Highlands, N. C. (at 3700 feet), lends weight to a growing suspicion that this species is of local distribution in the southern mountains in summer.

HAIRY WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopos villosus*). Apparently not restricted altitudinally.

DOWNY WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopos pubescens*). The two highest records were at 4700 feet in the Balsam Mountains, N. C., June 21, and 4650 feet on Pisgah Ridge, July 3.

EASTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus tyrannus*). One at Shady Valley, Tenn., June 11, at 2800 feet, but 2 at Banner Elk, N. C., June 12, at 3800 feet. The latter record is the highest I know of for the summering of this species in the East.

CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus crinitus*). Found up to 4850 feet on Pisgah Ridge, N. C., the highest summer record of my knowledge.

EASTERN PHOEBE (*Sayornis phoebe*). Up to 5000 feet on Pisgah Ridge, July 3.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax virescens*). Not unusual in the Transition Zone, and once as high as 3800 feet near Highlands, N. C., (June 18).

LEAST FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax minimus*). Ranged from 1000 feet at North Wilkesboro, N. C., June 13 (with Wendell P. Smith), to 5150 feet on balds northeast of Roan Mountain, June 10 (with Behrend). These seem to be the species' altitudinal extremes in the Southeast in summer, but the observers with me had known of these breeding stations from previous years.

TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax traillii*). Because the Traill's (or Alder) Flycatcher had never been found in North Carolina in the breeding season, Wendell P. Smith and I were surprised to hear two singing males at North Wilkesboro, June 13, at an elevation of 1000 feet. Details of this observation have been submitted to *The Auk*, and mention of the record has already been made in *Audubon Field Notes* (10:378).

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE (*Contopus virens*). Highest records made in 1956 were: 4850 feet northeast of Roan Mountain, June 10 (with Behrend); 5450 feet in the Balsams, N. C., June 21; and 4520 feet on Pisgah Ridge, July 3.

HORNED LARK (*Eremophila alpestris*). Although found on the balds northeast of Roan Mountain with Fred Behrend (where previously known to him), June 10, at altitudes of 5000 to 5800 feet, it was not found at intermediate altitudes. Probably it does occur at all altitudes, however,

wherever suitable habitat may be found. On Lookout Mountain, at 1800 feet two immatures were found on the Georgia side and two adults a few miles away on the Alabama side, June 26. Apparently this constitutes the fourth breeding locality for Georgia (*Audubon Field Notes*, 10:384, where "second breeding season record for Alabama" is in error.)

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*). The only records for the Transition Zone were near Highlands, N. C., nowhere at higher elevations than 3820 feet.

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*). Common at Banner Elk, N. C., 3800 feet, June 12, but found above 3000 feet elsewhere only at Highlands (3820 feet), where a pair nested on the second-floor porch of the Highlands Inn. This is the first nesting or summer record within 30 miles of Highlands and was discovered by Tolliver Crunkleton, who saw the birds building.

PURPLE MARTIN (*Progne subis*). Found only in the North Carolina Upper Austral, as follows: few at Franklin, June 18, at 2100 feet; 5 at Andrews, June 27, at 1900 feet; 6 at Sylva, July 4 (migrants?), at 2150 feet.

BLUE JAY (*Cyanocitta cristata*). Not unusual at high altitudes, e.g., 5300 feet near Roan Mountain (with Behrend); 5500 feet in Black Mountains, N. C.; 5500 feet in Balsam Mts.; and 5600 feet on Pisgah Ridge.

COMMON RAVEN (*Corvus corax*). Seen only near Highlands, N. C., June 23 (with Crunkleton, Tom Quay, and the Conrad Ekdahls), and heard in the Black Mountains, June 14. The altitudes were 3900 and 6300 feet, respectively.

COMMON CROW (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). Common at high altitudes northward, but rare around Highlands, N. C., and in the higher Georgia mountains. Behrend and I saw 41 in the mountains northeast of Roan, ranging up to 5500 feet, June 10.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE (*Parus atricapillus*). Three in the Balsam Mountains, N. C., at altitudes of about 5400 feet, June 21. After my tentative identification, based on call note and size, one gave the diagnostic two-note song. Not encountered elsewhere.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE (*Parus carolinensis*). Not unusual in the Transition Zone (and lower zones). The highest record, at 4675 feet, Pisgah Ridge, July 3, was based on *sight and call note only*, as the song was not heard. If correct, it seemed strange that this species would be common (7 in 6 hours) on this ridge, whereas the Black-cap was the species present in the Balsams which connect with this ridge at Tennessee Bald. However, the difference in elevation of the birds was about 700 feet, and the Balsams had far more conifers than Pisgah Ridge.

TUFTED TITMOUSE (*Parus bicolor*). Common at lower altitudes and ranging up to 5100 feet on mountains northeast of Roan, June 10 (with Behrend).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta carolinensis*). Distribution about like that of the Tufted Titmouse. Seen up to 4600 feet in the Balsams, June 21, and 4500 feet on Pisgah Ridge, July 3.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta canadensis*). Universally present in conifers of the Canadian Zone (Black and Balsam Mountains, Pisgah Ridge). Still fairly common at much lower elevations (3700-4000 feet) around Highlands, N. C., in white pine and hemlock.

BROWN CREEPER (*Certhia familiaris*). Found in 1956 only in the Balsams, June 21, but doubtless present throughout the Canadian Zone wherever conifers grow.

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*). Up to 4700 feet in mountains northeast of Roan, June 10 (with Behrend), but otherwise below 4000 feet. One singing at Franklin, June 18, seems to indicate a southward extension of breeding range in North Carolina.

BEWICK'S WREN (*Thryomanes bewickii*). A singing male at 4925 feet in the mountains northeast of Roan on June 10 (with Behrend) is almost the highest summer record known for this species in the East. A nest with 5 or 6 young was found near Highlands, where it is rare, June 23, at 3600 feet (with the Crunkletons and Ekdahls).

CAROLINA WREN (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*). Found up to 3900 feet or slightly higher.

MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus polyglottos*). One at Shady Valley, Tenn., 2800 feet, June 11, and one at Vilas, N. C., 2900 feet, June 12. These may be the highest known summer records of the species in the East.

CATBIRD (*Dumetella carolinensis*). Up to 5800 feet or higher in the Black Mountains; about as high in other parts of the Canadian Life Zone.

BROWN THRASHER (*Toxostoma rufum*). Found at high elevations in several places: 4900 feet near Roan Mountain (with Behrend); 5000 feet on Beech Mountain; 5150 feet in the Black Mountains; and 5200 feet on Pisgah Ridge. The highest record was at 5500 feet in the Balsam Mountains, June 21.

ROBIN (*Turdus migratorius*). Found at all elevations.

WOOD THRUSH (*Hylocichla mustelina*). Ranged up to 5400 feet at Carver's Gap (Roan Mountain), June 10 (with Behrend); to 5000 feet in the Balsams; and to 5100 feet on Pisgah Ridge.

VEERY (*Hylocichla fuscescens*). Without altitudinal limitations upward.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia sialis*). Not found above 4000 feet this year.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (*Poliophtila caerulea*). Maximum altitude in North Carolina in 1956 was 2100 feet.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus satrapa*). Found in all Canadian Zone mountains. Pair thought to be nesting in Highlands, N. C., at 3850 feet (Crunkleton).

CEDAR WAXWING (*Bombycilla cedrorum*). One at 6400 feet on Mt. Mitchell. Also found in the Canadian Zone in the Great Smokies and on Pisgah Ridge, as well as in the Transition and Upper Austral Zones.

COMMON STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*). The only high-altitude records made in 1956 were on the balds northeast of Roan (with Behrend), June 10—up to 4925 feet. Increasing in numbers at Highlands, N. C. (3820 feet).

WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*). The highest record this summer was 2800 feet at Shady Valley, Tenn., June 11.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (*Vireo flavifrons*). No records were made above the Upper Austral this year.

SOLITARY VIREO (*Vireo solitarius*). The 1956 records were at all extremes of altitude, as I worked no lower than 1000 feet at North Wilkesboro.

RED-EYED VIREO (*Vireo olivaceus*). Uppermost records were 5150 feet in mountains northeast of Roan (with Behrend), 5000 feet on Beech

Mountain, 4500 feet in the Great Smokies, and 4520 feet on Pisgah Ridge.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (*Mniotilta varia*). Found up to 4725 feet near Roan Mountain, June 10, with Behrend.

WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helminthos vermivorus*). The highest record in 1956 was at 3100 feet just across the Georgia line from Highlands, N. C., June 30.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora chrysoptera*). A pair seen by Behrend and me near Yellow Mountain, N. C., June 10, was at the high altitude of 5180 feet. Several records were at altitudes of 3500 to 4000 feet.

PARULA WARBLER (*Parula americana*). Not recorded above 4000 feet this year.

YELLOW WARBLER (*Dendroica petechia*). Much more frequently found in the Transition Zone than I had expected: North Carolina—near Highlands, June 18, 3725 feet, and June 19, 3500 feet; Vilas, June 12, 3000 feet; Elk Park, June 10, 3750 feet; Banner Elk, June 12, 3775 feet; Cashiers, June 20, 3450 feet; near Glenville, June 20, 3750 feet. Georgia—Mud Creek, June 30, 3050 feet. Tennessee—Lake Phillip Nelson, June 11, 3500 feet. The highest previous summer record known to me was 3700 feet.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER (*Dendroica caerulescens*). Ranged down to 3100 feet at Mud Creek, Georgia, June 30. Numbers apparently reduced this year.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (*Dendroica virens*). No low-altitude records for 1956.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (*Dendroica fusca*). Population seemed to be reduced in 1956. One was singing at 6300 feet on Mount Mitchell, June 14. This is the highest summer record known to me.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (*Dendroica dominica*). All 1956 records were in the Upper Austral Life Zone.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (*Dendroica pensylvanica*). Ranged from 2100 feet at Sylva, N. C., June 20, upward to about 6500 feet.

PINE WARBLER (*Dendroica pinus*). The highest record was at 2500 feet near Satolah, Ga., June 30. Others were at 2200 feet and below in North Carolina.

PRAIRIE WARBLER (*Dendroica discolor*). Ranged upward to 2200 feet at Sylva, N. C., June 20.

OVENBIRD (*Seiurus aurocapillus*). Ranged from 1000 feet at North Wilkesboro up to 5600 feet in the Balsam Mountains, June 21, and 5375 feet northeast of Roan Mountain, June 10 (with Behrend). The record in the Balsams apparently represents a new maximum altitude for summering.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH (*Seiurus motacilla*). Not recorded in 1956 above 2800 feet (Shady Valley, Tenn.).

KENTUCKY WARBLER (*Oporornis formosus*). Only three records were high enough to fall in the Transition Life Zone: one near Lake Thorpe (Glenville), N. C., 3800 feet, June 20; two in the Walnut Mountains, near Faust, N. C., at 3550 feet, June 9; one near Highlands, N. C., at 3700 feet, June 18. Apparently these records represent the species' highest known penetration into the mountains in the breeding season.

YELLOWTHROAT (*Geothlypis trichas*). One on the balds northeast of Roan Mountain, June 10 (with Behrend), was at 4800 feet, but three on

Pisgah Ridge, July 3, ranged from a comparable altitude up to 5300 feet.

YELLOW-BREASTED Chat (*Icteria virens*). Maximum elevation on balds near Roan Mountain about the same as for the Yellowthroat.

HOODED WARBLER (*Wilsonia citrina*). The highest-ranging individual was at 4000 feet near Roan Mountain, June 10 (with Behrend).

CANADA WARBLER (*Wilsonia canadensis*). Ranged downward to about 3500 feet, but definite limits not noted this year.

AMERICAN REDSTART (*Setophaga ruticilla*). The highest records in 1956 were of two pairs near Highlands, N. C., at about 3500 feet, June 23 (with Crunkletons and Ekdahls), and one singing in the Walnut Mountains, near Faust, N. C., at the same elevation, June 9.

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*). Found in all towns except Highlands (Banner Elk, 3750 feet; Cashiers, 3450 feet; etc.).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella magna*). A few were recorded in western North Carolina at 3000 and 3800 feet, but one singing at 4400 feet near Banner Elk, June 12, is the highest I have ever seen.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). Ranged up to 3800 feet at Banner Elk, N. C.

ORCHARD ORIOLE (*Icterus spurius*). Not recorded above 1000 feet this year.

PURPLE GRACKLE (*Quiscalus quiscula*). The highest of record in 1956 were two at Banner Elk, N. C., 3800 feet, June 12.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD (*Molothrus ater*). Not common in the Transition Zone, but found up to 3900 feet at Banner Elk, June 12. A female at Highlands, June 23 (with Crunkletons and Ekdahls), at an elevation of 3650 feet, was the first summer record for the species in that region.

SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga olivacea*). Ranged upward to 5400 feet in the mountains northeast of Roan, June 10 (with Behrend), and to 5000 feet in the Balsams and on Pisgah Ridge.

SUMMER TANAGER (*Piranga rubra*). The highest 1956 record—about 2500 feet near Satolah, Ga., June 30—appears to be about as high as the species nests anywhere.

CARDINAL (*Richmondia cardinalis*). Found as high as 4200 feet near Banner Elk, N. C., June 15.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*). Maximum elevations: 5550 feet, northeast of Roan Mountain, June 10 (with Behrend); 6000 feet (at least) in the Black Mountains, June 14. Minimum: 3500 feet near Highlands, June 19.

BLUE GROSBEAK (*Guiraca caerulea*). My highest personal records of this Austral species were made this summer: 1800 feet on top of Lookout Mountain, Alabama, June 26; and near Satolah, Ga., in the Big Creek area, at 2000 feet, June 30.

INDIGO BUNTING (*Passerina cyanea*). High-altitude records were as follows: up to 5150 feet near Roan Mountain, June 10 (with Behrend); up to 6000 feet in the Black Mountains, June 14; about 5100 feet near Newfound Gap in the Great Smokies, June 27.

PINE SISKIN (*Spinus pinus*). This is apparently a very rare breeding bird in the mountains of the Southeast, and singles were encountered only in the Black Mountains—one at Mount Craig at 6650 feet, June 14, and one near Mount Mitchell Inn at 6300 feet, July 2.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH (*Spinus tristis*). Ranged from the lowest elevations visited in 1956 up to 5850 feet in the mountains northeast of Roan, June 10 (with Behrend), but not above 5100 feet elsewhere.

RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*). One near the radio transmitter in the Black Mountains, at 6550 feet, July 2, may be the highest summer record known in the East, although others are within 50 feet of this elevation.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (*Ammodramus savannarum*). One singing at an altitude of 3700 feet near Highlands, N. C., June 23 (with Crunkletons and Ekdahls), is the first summer record in those mountains. Records of comparable altitude were made at Banner Elk, June 12, 3800 feet; and Vilas, June 12, 3100 feet. These seem to be the highest published records in eastern North America.

VESPER SPARROW (*Pooecetes gramineus*). Apparently limited by latitude rather than altitude, as it was found across northern North Carolina from the Transition Zone up to 5400 feet on the balds northeast of Roan, June 10 (with Behrend). There are, of course, breeding records in the Upper Austral. Young out of the nest were seen on June 10.

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO (*Junco hyemalis*). Georgia's highest mountains apparently lacked all of the usual Canadian Zone index species, although Transition Zone species were generally present. In my six hours of field work above 3000 feet in that state only a single Junco was encountered (Brasstown Bald) and no Veeries. In other mountains the present species ranged from the highest peaks down to 3750 feet. An *open* nest containing eggs was found on Yellow Mountain (near Roan), June 10 (with Behrend).

CHIPPING SPARROW (*Spizella passerina*). Found only below 4000 feet. Young were seen out of the nest at Banner Elk, June 12, and Glenville, N. C., June 20.

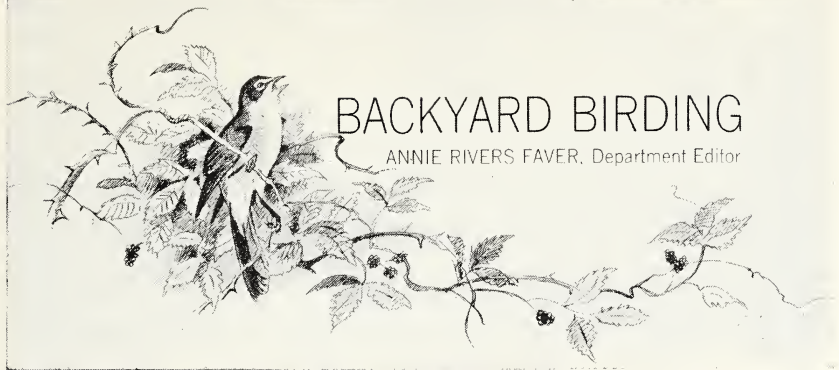
FIELD SPARROW (*Spizella pusilla*). Ranged up to 5350 feet on balds near Roan, June 10 (with Behrend), where one was carrying food; also to 5100 feet on Beech Mountain, June 12, and on Pisgah Ridge, July 3. A nest with well incubated eggs was found at Lake Nelson, Tenn., June 11, and young were out of the nest the next day at Banner Elk, N. C.

SONG SPARROW (*Melospiza melodia*). Recorded up to 5050 feet *only* in mountains near Roan, June 10 (with Behrend), but singing birds in the Black Mountains on July 2 were at altitudes of 6200 and 6350 feet.

Department of Biological Sciences,
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Tallahassee, Florida.

—CBC—

To insure health, a man's relation to Nature must come very near to a personal one; he must be conscious of a friendliness in her; when human friends fail or die, she must stand in the gap to him. I cannot conceive of any life which deserves the name, unless there is a certain tender relation to Nature. This it is which makes winter warm, and supplies society in the desert and wilderness. Unless Nature sympathizes with and speaks to us, as it were, the most fertile and blooming regions are barren and dreary.—Henry Thoreau, *Journal*, January 23, 1858.



BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAVER, Department Editor

Sometimes in the late evenings, we have heard an odd croaking call come through the woods behind our house from the direction of the pond. I couldn't place in my mind just what this off-call came from, though I knew I had heard it before. Late on the 2nd of December, we walked over to the pond just at dusk, and as we stood on the dam, a Great Blue Heron came sailing in over the treetops. As he settled down on a log near the opposite bank, he saw us, and uttered this same odd croak! Since then, we have seen the heron several times, and heard him calling. So I was very interested in the following observation by Mrs. Louise Barrington, Charleston, S. C. in the latest issue of *The Lesser Squawk* (publication of the Charleston Natural History Society):

Is it generally known that the Great Blue Heron is a nocturnal feeder, as well as a diurnal one? *(1 & 2) Living on the banks of the Stono River, my husband and I have come to the conclusion that the feeding time for these big, guttural croakers is much more by the stage of tide than by daylight or darkness. Whenever the tide is out far enough to expose mudbanks and to furnish good wading conditions, we are likely to hear the big fellows as they arrive or take off during their feeding. On moonlight nights we often glimpse them silhouetted against the sheen of the river, but in the dark of the moon only their unmistakable croaks advise us of their presence. It is no individual bird that has acquired these nocturnal habits, for frequently we see or hear several at different points on the mudbank when the tide is right, regardless of whether it be very early morning or very late evening.

(*1. I have found no reference to this fact in any of my ornithological books, nor in any other volumes to which I have access.

2. Though Forbush in *Birds of Massachusetts*, Vol. 1, Page 327, does refer to their migrating at night.—L.B.)

[Frank M. Chapman states in his *Handbook of Birds of North America*, Revised edition, 1914: "They (Gt. Blue Herons) feed both by day and night. . . . Their voice is harsh and rasping. When alarmed they utter a croak which is sometimes prolonged into a series of *squawks*."—K.C.S.]

Another item from the same issue of *The Lesser Squawk*:

Mr. Ike Metcalf writes in to say that thirteen Mourning Doves spent Christmas Eve under a pyracantha in Edgewater Park, and "never bestirred themselves to touch the cracked grain on the ground until the first rays of the sun hit the treetops. There was heavy frost everywhere on the ground that morning except where the shrubs spread over little green patches. The doves evidently knew where they might sit without risking frozen tail feathers."

Mr. Metcalf also states: "Saturday morning, December 29th, two Brewer's Blackbirds, male, visited the feeding table and another came on December 31st. This species having been reported at Bulls Island on

the 27th, it would appear that this western bird is visiting the Low Country in growing numbers. The first record for the coast was in 1932 and another individual was seen early in February, 1954."

Mrs. Charles, of Aynor, S. C., passed on to me a letter she had received from Mrs. Olin Griffin, of Fort Mill, S. C., in which she related the following incident: During the drought this past July, I had a mother rail bring her young to the yard. I couldn't believe my eyes. She must have been hunting water. She didn't seem too afraid, and didn't run or fly, as I guess she wouldn't leave her young. I got out my book, the *Audubon Guide*, to be sure. It was dark brown like the King Rail, and had two little black chicks, the first I ever saw. I wanted someone else to see them, too, as I was alone at the time, except for my grandson. I heard her clucking and looked out the window. They walked by real close and went all around the house. Isn't this unusual?

(Thanks Mrs. Griffin. Experiences like this put the thrill in Backyard Birding.—Dept. Ed.)

From Joseph R. Norwood, Charlotte, N. C., comes the following note:

For several weeks we have been surprised to hear an owl "hooting" on occasion in our neighborhood in southeastern Charlotte. At about 8:30 on the night of October 12, I was in our backyard and from habit gave a perfunctory "squeak" or two. To my amazement a large, ghostly shape came winging low toward me and then veered sharply away to a nearby pine tree. I hastened into the house to get Mrs. Norwood and a flashlight. Returning to the yard I again "squeaked" and this time the owl obligingly flew almost over our heads and came to rest in a dead sweet gum tree about ten feet from us. Shining the flashlight on it we saw that it was a Barred Owl. For several moments it peered curiously down at us while we peered curiously *up* at it. The owl then took off over the house to another tree. A third "squeak" brought it over once more but by this time it had apparently learned that I was no mouse since it responded no more. It is encouraging to know that even in a built up residential area in this "metropolis" of the two Carolinas one can still see something besides the everyday yard and garden birds.

A letter from Mr. Linville Hendren of Elkin, N. C., brings us the following notes:

On Saturday, May 5, of this year I saw one of the prettiest backyard bird sights I have seen up to now. I was sitting at a window of Mr. Thurmond Chatham's Ronda, N. C. home watching birds at a feeder fifteen or twenty feet away. Food was on the ground as well as on the feeder. We had been seeing several male Indigo Buntings feeding there. The numbers were increasing. Then at one time I counted twenty-one males and six female Indigo Buntings feeding along with a few Cardinals and other birds. All that picture needed was some male Goldfinches and a Scarlet Tanager!

Did you ever see young birds just out of the nest gather into a typical quail covey? A Carolina Wren built its nest in my garage. We had watched them with interest. Then one morning when Ola went to check on them, the brood exploded into the garage. We closed the door enough to keep our collie out, but not enough to hinder the parents or young from going or coming at will. We returned to the kitchen for breakfast. It was an unusually cool morning for late June. Next time we looked into the garage, all five babies were huddled together on the floor, tails in the center and heads all pointed out! When I approached to try to flash a color picture, the birds broke the circle a little, but still made a right nice picture.

(We are greatly in need of around-home, garden and backyard observations from our members for this department.—Ed)

CAROLINAS 1956 CHRISTMAS COUNT

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN

Weather in the Carolinas was generally unfavorable for bird finding during the 1956 census period. One hundred and eighty-nine observers turned out, however, and found average to good populations. The overall species count was 181, or 3 more than found last winter. The individual count was in the order of 229,000; some 32,000 above last winter's count.

There was a good showing of egrets and herons along the coast. Wildfowl populations were larger than last year. Hawks, as a group, were more plentiful. Shorebirds were rather scarce. The warbler population was about normal, after last year's over-supply. Sparrows generally were well represented. Juncos, slow to arrive, finally showed in good strength in most locations. The usual Purple Finch population had not built up at the time of the count.

Some comment on individual species is included in the location summaries. Wilmington's count of 158 may well be one of the high counts in the national summary.

Aiken, S. C. (same area as last year—7½ mile radius centering on Aiken Training Track; swamps and ponds, 35%; pasture, plowed and abandoned fields, 24%; pine and hardwood forest, 20%; burned out woods, 9%; suburbs, 7%; farmland, 5%).—Dec. 31; 5:15 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. Clear; temp. 41° to 71°; wind SW, 6-15 m.p.h. Three observers in one party. Total party-hours, 12 (10 on foot, 2 in car); total party-miles, 90 (10 on foot, 80 by car). The species count (63) was one less than last year's. The individual count (2266) was only one-fifth (appx) of last year's figure. This latter, due to the absence of large numbers of Starlings, Red-wings, Grackles and Cowbirds. The count of Rusty Blackbirds jumped from last year's 5 to 103. Noteworthy in individual counts was 146 Black Vultures. No other location approached that concentration. Outstanding in the species found, were: a Bonaparte's Gull; a Marsh Wren (Long-billed); and a Solitary Vireo. Among the 16 Eastern Towhees recorded, the ratio of White-eyed (11) to Red-eyed (5) birds is interesting.—J. Fred Denton, Robert A. Norris, William Post, Jr., (compiler).

Chapel Hill, N. C. (same area as in last 26 years; oak-hickory climax, 30%; low ground thickets and farmland, 30%; pine forest, 5%; marsh and lake shores, 30%; University campus, 5%).—Dec. 30; 5:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Temp. 28° to 35°; wind NW, 12 m.p.h. Ten observers in eight parties. Total party-hours, 52 (39 on foot, 13 in car); total party-miles, 56 (30 on foot, 26 by car). A fairly normal count with a few exceptions. A wild Turkey was seen and there was a very large count of Meadowlarks (688). The absence of Purple Finches was commented upon. They have not been seen in Chapel Hill so far this winter. An Orchard Oriole, seen by Mr. and Mrs. Matt Thompson and others was in the Thompson yard both before and after the count (see the Mar. 1954 *Chat*, p. 9, for Holmes' report of six of these orioles in his yard at Mt. Olive during the winter 1953-4 and of a specimen he took there nine winters before that).—Roy M. Brown, F. H. Edmister, Ray P. Kaighn, Gerald R. MacCarthy, Lizzie Patterson, Phillips Russell, Wiley B. Sanders, Matt L. Thompson (compiler), Sue R. Thompson, Adelaide Walters.

Charleston, S. C. (same area as in preceding years; centered above Charleston to include famed Bulls Island).—Dec. 27; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear, frost; temp. 33° to 60°; wind SW, 8-20 m.p.h. Seventeen observers in 6 parties (one party started at 5:00 a.m., two parties stopped at 4:00 p.m.). Total party-hours, 54 (42 on foot, 9 by car, 3 by boat); total party-miles, 225 (41 on foot, 174 by car, 10 by boat). Continued deficient rainfall, resulting in drying up all low spots and most ponds, markedly cut down bird populations and some species, A Yellow-crowned Night Heron, rare in

winter, was seen under excellent light conditions at 50-75 yards with glasses by Edward S. Dingle. The first mid-winter record for S. C., for the **Olive-backed Thrush** was obtained. The able observers, Mrs. Francis Barrington and Mrs. Robert H. Coleman studied it for some ten minutes at ranges down to 10 ft., with and without glasses. Some 75 Brewer's Blackbirds, formerly considered very rare on the S. C., coast were found by Robert D. Edwards and R.D.E., Jr., both previously familiar with the species.—Mrs. Francis Barrington, T. A. Beckett III, Edmund Elitch, E. Burnham Chamberlain (compiler), Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Coleman, Ernest A. Cutts, Edward S. Dingle, Robert D. Edwards, Robert D. Edwards, Jr., R. E. Fritzsche, Julian Harrison, I. S. H. Metcalf, J.A. Quinby, Thomas Uzzell, A. M. Wilcox, Ellison A. Williams (members and guests of the *Charleston Natural History Society*).

Charlotte, N. C. (same as in past 14 years—centering in the city at 7th. St., and Briar Creek).—Dec. 29; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Raw, cold and very windy; temp. 28° to 50°; wind N to NW, 15 to 35 m.p.h. Water open. Ten observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 31 (19 on foot, 12 in car); total party-miles, 201 (17 on foot, 184 by car). The species count (49) was lower than usual. The count of individuals was up 33%—due probably to better planned coverage. Tree-top Siskins and Purple Finches were not to be found but Cedar Waxwings were everywhere. Five Chipping Sparrows were noteworthy. Seen in the area during the period: Gadwall, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Woodcock, Palm Warbler, Purple Finch (a single male), Fox Sparrow.—B. R. Chamberlain (compiler), Mrs. B. R. Chamberlain, Norman Chamberlain, Mrs. Wm. G. Cobey, Jack H. Fehon, J. P. Hamilton, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph R. Norwood, Mrs. E. J. Presser, Bill Smith (*Mecklenburg Audubon Club*).

Columbia, S. C. (same general area as in preceding years, except Congaree Creek area omitted and Stix Fish Hatchery and Columbia Airport areas included; deciduous river and creek swamps, 20%; pine woods, 20%; open fields, 30%; lake shores. 15%; urban. 15%).—Dec. 29; 6:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear to cloudy; temp. 35° to 45°; wind W-NW, 5-20 m.p.h. Ten observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 57 (43 on foot, 14 by car); total party-miles, 159 (12 on foot, 147 by car). Species count (65) about normal; individual count more than 40% above last year's figure—in part, to very large numbers of Rusty Blackbirds (750), Field Sparrows (471), and Chipping Sparrows (386). A single **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was reported.—Gordon H. Brown (compiler), Mrs. S. E. Hartin, Mr. & Mrs. P. B. Hendrix, David Monteith, Fred Sample, Charles I. Simmons, Mrs. Clyde Sisson, Mr. & Mrs. Douglas E. Wade. (*Columbia Bird Club*).

Eastover, S. C. (same area as in past years: cultivated fields, 33%; grass pastures, 33%; deciduous and pine woods, 14%; swampy areas around ponds, 20%).—Dec. 31; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fair; temp. 37° to 69°; strong SW wind. Two observers in one party. Total party-hours, 7 (1 on foot, 6 in car); total party-miles, 21 (½ on foot, 20½ by car). A low count in species and individuals. A Blue Goose and a Pigeon Hawk were the only unusual finds. Also unusual was the absence of Purple Finches and Pine Siskins. Seen in the area during the period: a Great Blue Heron; Downy Woodpeckers; Fox Sparrows.—Mrs. Clyde Sisson, Mrs. W. H. Faver (compiler).

Elkin, N. C. (area same as in previous years, including the town of Ronda).—Dec. 28; 8:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.; Mild in p.m., fair to party cloudy; wind SW, 10-15 m.p.h. Nine observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 25 (15 on foot, 10 in car); total party-miles, 55 (10 on foot, 45 by car). Species and individuals about normal in number. Seven Canvas-backs were unusual. There were no Purple Finches or Siskins and only a medium count of Goldfinches. Twenty White-crowned Sparrows were seen.—Tom Bryan, Harold Click, Linville Hendren, Ola Hendren, Tom Hendren, Mr. & Mrs. E. M. Hodel, Bill Roth, Wendell P. Smith (compiler).

Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tenn.-N. C.—(same area as 1937 and subsequent years).—Dec. 23; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Rain, irregular; temp. 50° to 69°; wind 5-20 m.p.h. Ground wet and bare. Twenty-two observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours, 67 (47 on foot, 20 in car); total party-miles, 276 (37 on foot, 239 by car). The species count (53) was slightly below last winter's figure. Scarcely more than half of last year's individual tally was noted. Grosbeaks and Crossbills were not to be found. Most conspicuous absentees apparently were Purple Finches and Pine Siskins.—Dr. R. James Becker, Jane Briscoe, Mary Ruth Chiles, Claude Coile, Jr., Jessie Dempster, Mary Enloe, Elizabeth French, Vernon C. Gilbert, Jr., David Highbaugh, Philip A. Huff, Elsie Janson, Mr. & Mrs. H. Frank Leonard, Dorothy J. MacLean, Joe F. Manley, Mrs. Alice D. Miller, Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Monroe, Mrs. E. E. Overton, J. B. Owen, Paul S. Pardue, H. B. Reed, Jr., Arthur Stupka (compiler), Dr. James T. Tanner, Dr. & Mrs. Samuel R. Tipton (*Tenn. Ornithological Soc., Nat. Park Service* and guests).

Greensboro, N. C. (approximately same area as in former years; centering ½ mi. SW of WBIG transmitter. Deciduous and pine woods, 25%; thickets, 15%; fresh water lakes and ponds, 25%; open fields, 15%; marsh and wooded swamps, 10%; lawns and parks, 10%).—Dec. 29; 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cloudy to mostly sunny in p.m., a few showers before dawn and light snow flurries in forenoon; temp. 29° to 45°, slowly *falling* all day; wind gusty NW, 15-28 m.p.h. Water open. Twenty observers in nine parties. Total party-hours, 71 (33 on foot, 38 in car); total party-miles, 216 (23 on foot, 193 by car). In spite of a reduction in parties afield from last year's 19 to 9, practically the same high count in both species (82) and individuals (9493) was achieved. A *Bonaparte's Gull* was unusual (see Aiken, S. C. count). No Bob-whites were found and Pine Siskins were also absent. There was an unusually high count of White-crowned Sparrows (13). Six observers, included in the following list, participated only part time.—Mrs. F. H. Craft, Larry A. Crawford, Jr., Mrs. R. D. Douglas, Mrs. J. L. Hege, Mrs. W. S. Holmes, C. R. Lamb, James R. Mattocks, Mrs. Robert E. McCoy, Ethel McNairy, Mr. & Mrs. P. Melton, Ida Mitchell, David Neave, Mr. & Mrs. Geo. W. Perrett, Dr. and Mrs. Carlos Reed, Mrs. Edith L. Settan, Dr. & Mrs. A. D. Shaftesbury, George A. Smith and Thomas E. Street (compilers), Mrs. W. F. Smyre, Hal H. Strickland, Mrs. Charles M. Swart, Mrs. W. R. Troxler. (*Piedmont Bird Club*).

Greenville, S. C. (same as in previous years; centered at Union Bleachery. Pine and deciduous woods, 30%; open fields and border thickets, 65%; reservoirs and ponds, 5%).—Jan. 1; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Partially cloudy and mild. Twelve observers in two parties. Total party-hours, 21; total party-miles about 100 (5 on foot, 95 by car). The count was about average. Three Canvas-backs are noteworthy. Six Purple Finches, rare this winter, were found.—Jimmy Cureton, Ruth Gilreath, Myrla Kay Graham, Bobby Graham, Rosa Lee Hart, Ronny Langston, Sgt. Gene Parish, Miss May Puett, Jay Shuler (compiler), Hal Todd, Ruth Ann Turner, Betty Vernon. (*Greenville Bird Club*).

Henderson, N. C. (same area as in other years; open fields, 50%; woods, 25%; lakes and ponds, 20%; yards, 5%).—Dec. 28; 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear, mild; temp. 40° to 64°; Light breeze. Four observers in 2 parties in a.m., one party in p.m. Species count (47) off due to incomplete coverage. A count of 39 Ruby-crowned Kinglets was unusual. A female **Baltimore Oriole** was found. No Purple Finches were seen. A large count of White-throated Sparrows (168) is noteworthy. Mariel Gary (compiler), Mrs. Ethel Kirby, Misses May Hunter and Garnette Myers.

Lenoir, N. C. This count is not tabulated. Snow and wind blasts (NW, 30 m.p.h.) Dec. 29, permitted very limited coverage and only 29 species were recorded. Large numbers of White-throated Sparrows and Swamp Sparrows

were seen in the area prior to the count day. Part time observers: Mrs. J. B. Bernard (compiler), Mrs. Hazel Buys, Mrs. Mark Goforth, Mr. & Mrs. R. T. Greer, Cary Harrison, Frank Hoyer, Mr. & Mrs. Fred May, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Parks, Mrs. C. S. Warren, Mr. & Mrs. B. F. Williams.

Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, New Holland, N. C. (same area as in previous counts, centering near refuge lodge; open water, 40%; marsh, 30%; fields and thickets, 20%; pine and cypress woods, 10%).—Jan. 1; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; temp. 40° to 60°; wind NW, 5-15 m.p.h. Ground clear, water open. Three observers in 1 party. Total party-hours, 10 (6 on foot, 4 in car); total party-miles, 52 (4 on foot, 48 by car). The individual count of 161 thousand birds is 30 thousand above last year's estimate. Principal contributors to the increase were 10,000 Coot. Only 200 were listed last year. Other population comparisons, last winter/this winter: Widgeon, 500/3000; Shoveler, 1000/2000; Scaup (sp), 2500/6000; Ruddy Duck, 2000/10,000. Only 6 Fish Crows were seen—last year the number was 200. Ronnie Whitford, *Washington, N. C.*; Robert L. Wolff, *Greenville, N. C.*; Willie G. Cahoon, *New Holland* (compiler).

New London (Stanly Co.) N. C.—(same as in previous counts, centering 2 miles north of Badin, including a stretch of the Yadkin River: mixed deciduous woodland, 25%; open fields and farmland, 27%; fresh-water pond and lake shores, 25%; lakes and rivers, 15%; marsh, 3%; pine woods, 2%; town suburbs 3%).—Dec. 29; 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; temp. 34° to 56°; wind NW, 25-35 m.p.h.; rain before daybreak, clearing then partly cloudy. Water open. Seventeen observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 39 (17 on foot, 22 in car); total party-miles, 207 (23 on foot, 184 by car). An unusually high individual count (1700) of Juncos was largely responsible for a high over-all count. Nineteen Chipping Sparrows were reported; there were none in last year's count. A Common Egret and a **Green Heron**, the latter clearly seen by John Trott and others, are noteworthy.—Mrs. Barret Crook, Susan Green, M. M. Haithcock, Barbara Hatley, Gayle Mahathey, Donald Maner, Douglas Miller, Dwight Morgan, Tommy Morris, Ervin Poplin, Mrs. L. A. Price, Steve Starling, John Trott (compiler), Jane Turner, Mrs. J. U. Whitlock, Anne Whitlock, Mike Wilder.

Pawley's Island (Georgetown Co.) S. C. (same area as last year: not representative of a coastal count since mainland coverage is not included—sand dunes, ocean front beaches and salt water creeks).—Dec. 26; 7:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.; temp. 34° to 43°; wind S to W, 5-10 m.p.h. Clear. Four observers in one party. Total party-hours, 8½ (6 on foot, 2½ in car); total party-miles, 14 (5 on foot, 9 by car). Species count one less than last year (a dead Coot was deleted under the new rules). The count of individuals was high. Red-throated Loons were estimated to number over 200. Gannets numbered over 100. Outstanding find was an **immature White Ibis**, watched ½ hour by Douglas Wade *et al* with 12x glasses, on ground and in flight.—Clyde Sisson, Douglas Wade (compiler), Mrs. Wade, Lilla R. Wade, all of Columbia, S. C.

Raleigh, N. C. (practically same area as in previous counts: lakes and small ponds, 25%; mixed pine and deciduous woodland, 40%; deciduous woodland, 20%; open fields, 15%).—Dec. 27; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; temp. 32° to 48°; partly cloudy in a.m., cloudy in p.m.; wind NW, 10 m.p.h. Ground bare, water open. Five observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 30 (24 on foot, 6 in car); total party-miles, 45 (25 on foot, 20 by car). Approximately the same species and individual count as last year. Thirty-five Water Pipits were seen this year. They were not on last year's list at all. J. F. Greene, J. W. Johnson, E. W. Winkler, Mrs. D. L. Wray, D. L. Wray (compiler).

Rocky Mount, N. C. (same area as in last several years except that there are a few more ponds, this year).—Dec. 26; 6:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Clear to partly cloudy; calm; temp. 32° to 48°; heavy frost—some ice. Four ob-

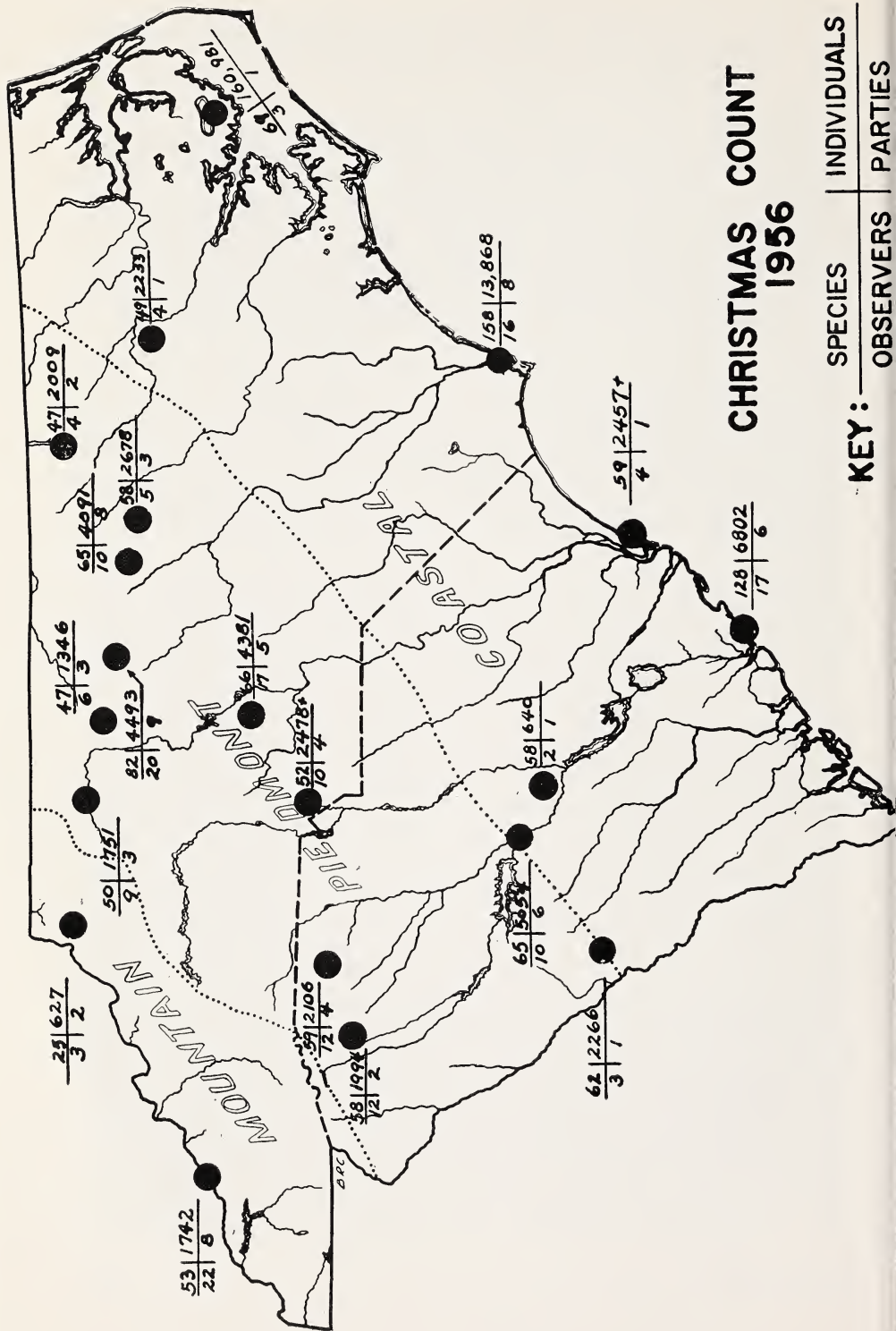
servers in 1 party. Total party-hours, appx. 10; total party-miles, 136 (1 on foot, 135 in car). Species count about normal; individual count somewhat low. Robins again absent except in very small numbers. The usual flocks of Goldfinches and Horned Larks were missing. Mr. & Mrs. C. D. Benbow, Eleanor and Bill Joyner (compiler).

Spartanburg, S. C. (7½ mile radius including Zimmerman's, Pierce's and Johnson's lakes, Sewage Disposal Plant: open farmland, 15%; town suburbs, 20%; mixed woodlands, 20%; lakes, ponds and marshes, 45%).—Dec. 30; 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; clear; temp. 27° to 50°; wind SW, 5-10 m.p.h. Twelve observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 21 (16 on foot, 5 in car); total party-miles, 99 (12 on foot, 87 by car). The species count was slightly below last year's figure. The individual count was a bit low, although there was a marked increase in the number of Killdeer, Mourning Doves and Meadowlarks.—Flora Beymer, Gabriel Cannon, Louisa Carlisle, Harold Correll, Ruth Crick (compiler), Paul Crosby, Dr. & Mrs. Charles Poole, Dr. James Thompson, Mrs. W. P. Walker, Dr. & Mrs. J. O. Watkins.

Todd, N. C. (same as preceding years; centering near Todd Post Office, along Ashe-Watauga County line). Dec. 30; 7:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.; temp. 20° to 35°; wind NW to SE, 20-30 m.p.h. ceasing at about 4 p.m. Partly cloudy; ground covered with ¾ inch of snow with drifts up to 2 feet. Water closed. Three observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 20 (8 on foot, 12 in car); total party-miles, 47 (10 on foot, 22½ by car, 14½ by jeep). The individual count (627) was about 25% over the previous high in spite of the blustery, cold day. A Cooper's Hawk and 2 Mockingbirds found, had never been soon on previous Christmas counts. No Goldfinches were found.—Ray Derrick, Mrs. A. B. Hurt (compiler), James Miller.

Wilmington, N. C. (12th., count in same area: centering at Monkey Junction on Carolina Beach Road; mixed pine and deciduous woodland, 60%; fresh-water ponds and river, 15%; beaches and salt water marsh, 20%; pasture, 5%).—Dec. 29; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; overcast, occasional sun; temp. 33° to 61°; wind N-NW, about 18 m.p.h., with gusts to 34 m.p.h. Ground bare, water open. Sixteen observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours, 85 (43 on foot, 38 by car, 4 by boat); total party-miles, 389 (46 on foot, 337 by car, 6 by boat). Species and individual counts slightly below the '54 figures and a bit above last winter's figures. A Red-necked Grebe was found again this year. Cecil Appleberry watched it at a distance of about 70 feet with 7x B&L glasses in Greenfield Lake. A Long-eared Owl was seen by Sam Baker. Steve Messenger reported a total of five Western Kingbirds; two were seen the next day in the same location by the Appleberrys and Mrs. Baker. The Bobolinks were unusual but not a surprising find; two hundred of them were seen Dec. 24 in the same general area. The Baltimore Oriole, a male, was one of a pair that was first noted Dec. 11.—Edna Appleberry (compiler), Cecil Appleberry, Mary Baker, Barney Barnhill, Sam Baker, Jr., Mrs. Cyril K. Bryan, Clifford Comeau, John Evans, John Irvine, Jr., John M. Irvine, Sr., Bill James, Polly Mebane, Claude McAllister, Steve Messenger, Bill Roe, Mary Urich. (*Wilmington Natural Science Club*).

Winston-Salem, N. C. (area same as last year).—Jan. 1; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; mostly cloudy; temp. 30° to 49°; wind SW, 0-10 m.p.h. Six observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 25 (20 on foot, 5 in car); total party-miles, 25 (20 on foot, 5 by car). Species and individual counts below normal, probably influenced by weather and the reduced number of parties. A count of 24 Mockingbirds was unusually high. A Brown Thrasher was seen. No Purple Finches and no Pine Siskins were noted. The count of Goldfinches (23) was very low.—Charles M. Frost, Dr. Edward Kissam, Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Simpson, Dr. Merrill Spencer, R. H. Witherington (compiler).



Christmas Count
1956

	Charleston, S. C.	Pawley's Island, S. C.	Wilmington, N. C.	Mattamuskeet, N. C.	Rocky Mount, N. C.	Eastover, S. C.	Columbia, S. C.	Aiken, S. C.	Raleigh, N. C.	Henderson, N. C.	Chapel Hill, N. C.	New London, N. C.	Charlotte, N. C.	Spartanburg, S. C.	Greensboro, N. C.	Greenville, S. C.	Winston-Salem, N. C.	Elkin, N. C.	Todd, N. C.	Smoky Mts., N. C.
Common Loon	3	4	38	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Red-throated Loon .....	..	200+	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Red-necked Grebe .....	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Horned Grebe	42	150+	63	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	..	..	..	..	..
Pied-billed Grebe	23	12	44	5	12	5	9	6	1	..	8	1	10	5	21	6	6	1	..	1
Brown Pelican	16	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gannet .....	..	100+	183	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
D-c Cormorant	27	100+	42	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Great Blue Heron	36	50+	32	3	4	..	5	3	..	1	6	2	2	1	4	..	1	..	..	..
Common Egret	6	200+	42	400	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Snowy Egret	11	..	5	300	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tri-colored Heron	11	50+	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Little Blue Heron	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Green Heron .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Black-cr. Nt. Heron .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yellow-cr. Nt. Heron	2	53	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
American Bittern	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
American Bittern .....	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Least Bittern .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
White Ibis	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whistling Swan .....	..	..	..	3,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canada Goose .....	..	21	285	65,000	10	..	200	..	..	..	..	16	..	8	5	..	..	216	..	..
Am. Brant .....	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Snow Goose .....	..	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blue Goose .....	..	..	1	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Mallard	15	..	595	8,000	..	4	..	..	80	..	15	95	..	60	207	20	8	41	..	..
Black Duck	30	..	26	9,000	..	..	..	..	4	1	40	85	..	2	10	..	2	7	..	..
Gadwall	15	..	27	2,000	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	13	..	..	..	..	..
American Widgeon	75	..	176	3,000	10	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	8	1	21	..	..	..	..	..
Pintail .....	..	..	..	35,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Green-winged Teal .....	..	..	270	3,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blue-winged Teal	1	..	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shoveler	7	..	..	2,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wood Duck .....	..	..	52	200	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Redhead	1	..	180	50	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..
Ring-necked Duck .....	..	..	17	1,000	4	27	33	..	100	..	75	..	..	75	354	250	6	..	..	..
Canvas-back .....	..	..	200	500	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	7	..	..

Christmas Count
1956

	Charleston, S. C.	Pawley's Island, S. C.	Wilmington, N. C.	Mattamuskeet, N. C.	Rocky Mount, N. C.	Eastover, S. C.	Columbia, S. C.	Aiken, S. C.	Raleigh, N. C.	Henderson, N. C.	Chapel Hill, N. C.	New London, N. C.	Charlotte, N. C.	Spartanburg, S. C.	Greensboro, N. C.	Greenville, S. C.	Winston-Salem, N. C.	Elkin, N. C.	Todd, N. C.	Smoky Mts., N. C.
Scamp (sp) .....	..	7	49	6,000	..	..	..	..	50	..	4	4	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..
Common Golden-eye .....	..	2	1	500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Bufflehead	19	2	44	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..
Old Squaw .....	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scooter (sp)	81	..	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ruddy Duck	1	1	22	10,000	1	1	..	..	12	..	6	..	..	10	15	..	..	1	..	..
Hooded Merganser	15	96	96	100	..	2	..	1	2	..	25	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Red-breasted Merganser	29	96	77	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Common Merganser .....	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Turkey Vulture	37	2	16	2	4	1	6	22	4	16	21	33	10	7	27	6	1	13	..	..
Black Vulture	53	4	19	2	..	9	23	146	..	6	6	15	12	2	15	1	..	..	..	..
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..
Cooper's Hawk .....	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	3	1	1	..	1	1
Red-tailed Hawk	6	..	3	1	1	..	..	1	7	3	4	4	1	3	1	1	1	..	..	3
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	..	3	1	5	3	2	1	..	..	2	2	..	1	5	2	..	..	..	..
Bald Eagle	7	2	7	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marsh Hawk	10	1	7	4	3	8	1	..	..	..	1	5	..	1	..	2	..	2	..	..
Osprey .....	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Peregrine Falcon .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pigeon Hawk .....	..	4	..	..	..	1	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sparrow Hawk	18	2	34	6	5	4	16	4	4	1	6	8	..	6	3	1	1	1	..	4
Rufed Grouse .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Bob-white	20	..	32	..	1	17	17	1	..	19	9	30	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Turkey	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
King Rail .....	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Clapper Rail	10	12	113	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Gallinule .....	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
American Coot .....	..	..	1270	10,000	4	1	..	2	30	1	20	..	2	..	85	..	..	..	..	1
Am. Oystercatcher	53	..	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Piping Plover	1	9	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ringed Plover	6	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Killdeer	26	..	64	25	387	1	11	262	4	27	5	47	64	111	142	24	1	20	..	16
Black-bellied Plover	32	17	70	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ruddy Turnstone	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
American Woodcock	1	..	8	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Snipe	4	..	23	4	5	3	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..

Christmas Count
1956

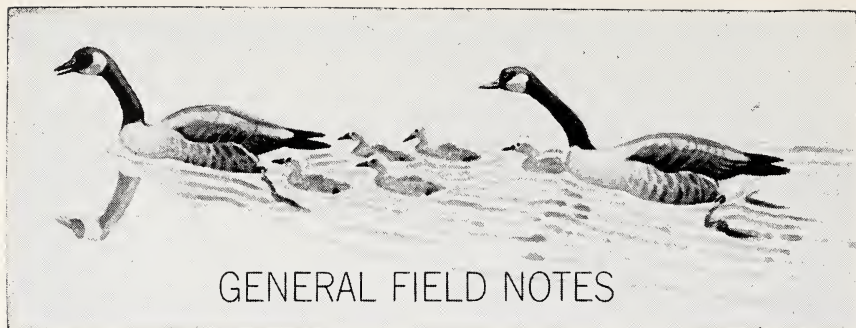
	Charleston, S. C.	Pawley's Island, S. C.	Wilmington, N. C.	Mattamuskeet, N. C.	Rocky Mount, N. C.	Eastover, S. C.	Columbia, S. C.	Aiken, S. C.	Raleigh, N. C.	Henderson, N. C.	Chapel Hill, N. C.	New London, N. C.	Charlotte, N. C.	Spartanburg, S. C.	Greensboro, N. C.	Greenville, S. C.	Winston-Salem, N. C.	Elkin, N. C.	Todd, N. C.	Smoky Mts., N. C.
Spotted Sandpiper	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Willet	16	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Greater Yellow-legs	16	9	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lesser Yellow-legs	4	4	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Purple Sandpiper .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Least Sandpiper	8	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dunlin	72	4	126	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Eastern Dowitcher	32	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Semipalmated Sandpiper ..	14	14	38	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Western Sandpiper	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sanderling	50	28	145	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Great Black-backed Gull ..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Herring Gull	48	50+	417	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	10	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ring-billed Gull	108	500+	645	25	..	..	12	..	..	..	104	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..
Laughing Gull .....	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Bonaparte's Gull .....	..	1	4	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gull-billed Tern	1	..	86	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Forster's Tern .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Tern	8	..	23	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Royal Tern	8	..	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Caspian Tern	7	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Black Skimmer .....	..	..	125	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mourning Dove	55	2	272	25	182	14	13	13	50	41	54	116	56	87	217	125	34	62	7	43
Ground Dove	7	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Barn Owl .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Screech Owl	2	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Great Horned Owl	1	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	1
Barred Owl .....	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Long-eared Owl .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Short-eared Owl .....	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Belted Kingfisher	20	16	27	2	4	1	1	2	3	..	5	1	..	..	6	..	..	1	2	5
Yellow-shafted Flicker ...	82	..	56	10	12	..	39	4	18	6	10	8	5	8	18	5	5	3	..	3
Pileated Woodpecker	17	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	9
Red-bellied Woodpecker ..	43	..	22	1	1	2	9	2	6	2	16	2	2	5	17	1	2	3	..	..
Red-headed Woodpecker ..	17	..	8	1	1	2	1	7	7	4	4	1	..	3	1	1	1	..	..	..
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker..	28	..	7	..	..	3	5	3	2	5	7	5	5	3	13	1	1	4	..	6
Hairy Woodpecker	4	..	5	1	..	1	..	1	2	..	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	..	2	1

Christmas Count
1956

	Charleston, S. C.	Pawley's Island, S. C.	Wilmington, N. C.	Mattamuskeet, N. C.	Jacky Mount, N. C.	Eastover, S. C.	Columbia, S. C.	Aiken, S. C.	Raleigh, N. C.	Henderson, N. C.	Chapel Hill, N. C.	New London, N. C.	Charlotte, N. C.	Spartanburg, S. C.	Greensboro, N. C.	Greenville, S. C.	Winston-Salem, N. C.	Todd, N. C.	Smoky Mts., N. C.
Downy Woodpecker	23	..	19	1	1	..	4	3	7	7	25	5	5	2	33	5	5	10	9
Red-cockaded Woodpecker ..	3	..	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Western Kingbird .....	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Eastern Phoebe	42	5	17	3	2	3	9	4	8	2	6	3	5	5	18	5	1	7	10
Horned Lark .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	2	..	..	6
Tree Swallow .....	..	..	26	50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blue Jay	111	2	110	..	10	5	35	6	61	7	26	5	22	62	29	15	14	7	20
Common Raven .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
American Crow	107	..	139	50	77	17	41	8	20	20	86	84	122	69	252	61	42	426	100
Fish Crow	10	7	95	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Carolina Chickadee	75	..	57	..	3	32	2	2	12	32	77	38	42	39	179	18	25	36	91
Tufted Titmouse	49	..	58	..	1	3	39	4	32	7	51	4	20	25	96	13	10	14	54
White-breasted Nuthatch...	1	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	8	3	18	3	4	1	47	..	10	8	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch ..	..	2	4	..	..	..	10	11	..	2	14	3	11	1	39	2	..	..	..
Brown-headed Nuthatch ..	22	..	82	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	2	2	..	..	..	..
Brown Creeper	10	..	2	..	..	..	4	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
House Wren	7	1	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..
Winter Wren	11	..	6	..	..	2	2	2	2	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Carolina Wren	46	..	32	2	7	4	24	7	22	12	33	14	13	30	48	14	16	10	30
Marsh Wren (Long billed) ..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sedge Wren (Short-billed) ..	..	2	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mockingbird	27	23	72	3	20	4	40	7	43	18	33	13	30	22	48	13	28	12	3
Catbird	4	..	10	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brown Thrasher	30	..	15	..	..	2	11	4	4	1	4	3	..	3	..	1	1	9	..
Am. Robin	2250 +	..	442	..	8	118	356	1	5	2	25	9	43	10	7	50	10	13	134
Hermit Thrush	20	..	9	..	..	1	16	5	..	2	4	1	2	1	4	2	1	12	7
Olive-backed Thrush	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Bluebird	56	..	64	..	8	12	104	20	75	56	88	28	91	42	140	23	73	58	29
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher .....	..	..	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Golden-crowned Kinglet...	29	..	54	..	..	..	7	3	11	4	1	10	6	..	22	6	7	2	46
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	116	..	73	..	2	4	85	16	8	39	6	4	14	9	7	20	..	5	5
Water Pipit	20	..	481	2	100	9	..	..	35	..	..	..	..	..	18	..	..	..	..
Cedar Waxwing	117	..	117	..	12	3	396	185	35	5	37	134	612	10	159	51	42	107	51
Shrike	20	5	23	..	24	8	20	6	11	7	12	8	20	14	23	6	10	14	2
Common Starling	27	..	200 +	50	633	7	156	903	475	1025	1197	800	375	500 +	2897	500 +	150	85	180
White-eyed Vireo	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Christmas Count
1956

	Charleston, S. C.	Pawley's Island, S. C.	Wilmington, N. C.	Mattamuskeet, N. C.	Rocky Mount, N. C.	Eastover, S. C.	Columbia, S. C.	Aiken, S. C.	Raleigh, N. C.	Henderson, N. C.	Chapel Hill, N. C.	New London, N. C.	Charlotte, N. C.	Spartanburg, S. C.	Greensboro, N. C.	Greenville, S. C.	Winston-Salem, N. C.	Elkin, N. C.	Todd, N. C.	Smoky Mts., N. C.
Solitary Vireo	8	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Black and White Warbler ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Orange-crowned Warbler ..	4	200+	358	500	2	18	66	16	6	13	23	..	..	4	34	7	7	18	..	..
Myrtle Warbler ..	388+	..	..	..	..	6	38	8	6	12	28	2	85	4	32	3	2	..	..	..
Pine Warbler ..	37	8	12	..	..	3	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Palm Warbler (Sp)	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Yellowthroat ..	1	..	10	25	39	56	130	2	..	85	38	100	48	68	467	150+	70	22	63	84
House Sparrow	28	..	200+	..	..	..	..	56	400	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bobolink	145	..	30	20	183	44	190	3	340	170	688	119	137	255	285	200	101	51	..	23
Common Meadowlark	406	300+	1265	1,000	53	58	135	20	..	..	1	65	..	58	275	8	..	..	..	6
Red-winged Blackbird .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Orchard Oriole .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Baltimore Oriole .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rusty Blackbird	110	..	..	..	..	..	750	103	..	..	8	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..
Brewer's Blackbird	75+	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Boat-tailed Grackle	16	200+	40	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	10	..	..	..	..	..
Common Grackle	1	30+	62	35	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Cowbird	20	..	12	..	18	80	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	..	..	..	..	..
Cardinal	94	3	84	2	14	..	146	11	45	40	108	47	69	31	146	23	143	41	57	72
Purple Finch .....	..	..	40	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	1	6	..	..	..	..
Pine Siskin	68	1	93	..	5	14	72	8	35	18	43	70	18	37	62	36	23	34	..	43
Am. Goldfinch	214	2	253	2	9	3	40	16	21	14	42	21	10	32	33	12	10	2	2	9
Eastern Towhee	1	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ipswich Sparrow .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Savannah Sparrow	50	..	90	..	25	7	4	23	12	1	3	1	3	14	10	25	..	4	..	3
Henslow's Sparrow	6	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Seaside Sparrow	3	..	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vesper Sparrow	33	..	68	..	..	5	..	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	9	3	..	..	1	2
Slate-colored Junco	126	..	358	..	111	6	304	65	225	82	467	1700	238	147	1585	85	177	137	181	182
Chipping Sparrow	39	..	261	..	..	5	386	38	..	..	..	19	5	4	..	1	..	..	..	..
Field Sparrow	69	7	128	5	13	1	471	45	175	9	76	129	71	28	341	118	61	49	68	139
White-crowned Sparrow ..	305+	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	92	20	..	..
White-throated Sparrow ..	..	2	884	2	70	27	343	90	75	168	372	301	178	105	429	37	165	106	14	189
Fox Sparrow	19	1	71	1	..	3	5	1	..	2	37	..	..	5	17	..	3	14	7	6
Swamp Sparrow	10	..	35	1	..	3	5	32	5	..	..	3	..	2	67	4	3	..	..	4
Song Sparrow	81	15	291	2	8	5	159	23	55	13	30	6	28	60	269	12	42	38	37	66
Number of species	128	59	158	69	49	58	65	62	58	47	65	66	49	59	82	58	47	50	25	53
Number of individuals	6802	2458	13868	160,980	2933	640	5054	2266	2678	2009	4091	4381	2478	2106	9493	1949	1346	1751	627	1742



GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. B. Chamberlain, Robert Holmes, Jr., Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions. Typewritten manuscript should be double spaced on letter-size white paper.

The present General Field Notes section is outstanding in that it contains several examples of the kind of reporting we are striving for. Examination of two of them will show what we mean.

Mrs. Paul Atwood's notes on the plumage changes in a male Painted Bunting show what can be done as a start toward gathering data on change sequence during molt in a particular species. Careful observation and sufficient interest to record what she saw was all that the job required. The fact that there are gaps in the observations will doubtless induce her to continue the studies next fall and in future falls.

The Sprague's Pipit item is obviously the work of a professional. Robert Norris received his doctorate at Berkeley. Fortunately for us, he is presently engaged in natural history research associated with AEC, Aiken, S. C. His report is noteworthy because it records a rare bird in the area. It is particularly valuable because it tells so much about this bird.

Few of our members have Nonpareils and Sprague's Pipits to report on, but we have a feeling that these two contributors could give good reports on House Sparrows.

Golden Eagle in Berkeley Co., S. C.—A dead mature Golden Eagle floating in water was found by Jack West of the S. C. Wildlife Resources Department on Nov. 10, 1956, during a visit to a duck-hunting area about four miles southwest of Russellville, S. C., on Lake Moultrie. West also observed some dead Yellow-legs (species not determined). None of the dead birds was retrieved. It can be assumed that waterfowl hunters had shot them.

Golden Eagles are reported regularly over the past several winters on the Francis Marion Turkey Refuge near McClellanville (S. C.). One was taken captive last year somewhere in Oconee County. I am trying to get the facts on this.—DOUGLAS E. WADE, *S. C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Columbia, S. C.*

Flock of Fulvous Tree-Ducks in S. C.—I want to report twenty-four Fulvous Tree-Ducks, (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) first recorded Nov. 26 and still present on the refuge today (Dec. 3, 1956). Mr. Wineland, trans-

ferred to Blackbeard Island from Lacassine Refuge in Louisiana, spotted them immediately when here on a visit. I am sorry not to have spotted them myself. They remained in a small pool by the roadside and we saw them every day. Their warm brown color and slow wing beats make them stand out from the other ducks like a sore thumb. Ivan Tomkins has taken some color shots of them. I was glad to hear their squealing notes, very different from our other ducks. Wineland called them "Mexican squealers."—E. O. MELLINGER, *Savannah River National Wild Life Refuge*.

Waterfowl on a Piedmont Pond.—One mile east of Harrisburg, Cabarrus County, N. C., there is a fish pond of several acres known as "River Bend Lake" that Mrs. Norwood and I have had under infrequent observation since early November. We have found there an almost constant, if small, population of wintering waterfowl due to the policy of the owner, Mr. J. G. McCachern, who prohibits hunting on his property.

Ring-necked Ducks are common there, and a raft of 117 was seen December 18. Others that can usually be seen, in much smaller numbers, are Pied-billed Grebes and Coots. Seen less frequently, and in ones, twos and threes, are the Mallard, Black, and Ruddy Ducks. B. R. Chamberlain saw 3 Green-winged Teal on the lake, Nov. 13. Some unusual visitors have been an immature Blue Goose that was there from November 12-18 (also seen by B. R. Chamberlain); a Common Gallinule on November 17 and a male Canvasback from December 17-22. Mr. McCachern reports that a few Canada Geese have been at River Bend in previous winters.

Farther north are Concord Lakes located one mile east of Kannapolis, Cabarrus County. Here hunting is also prohibited since the lakes are reservoirs for the Concord water supply. Much larger numbers of waterfowl can be seen here due to the larger size of the lakes and more suitable habitat for dabblers at the north end. A typical day was December 22 when about 75 Mallards, 50 Black Ducks, 30 Baldpates, 5 Redheads, 350 Ring-necked Ducks, 25 Coots, and 10 Pied-billed Grebes were present. At various times during the winter Gadwalls, Pintails, Scaup and some species of merganser can be expected to drop in. A nice raft of Shovellers was on the lake for over a week last winter.

While the above list would certainly not excite a coastal birder, it represents a real treat to the landlocked Piedmont birder who sometimes has to travel for miles to see even a few Mallards or Ring-necks or maybe just a Pied-billed Grebe.—JOSEPH R. NORWOOD, *Charlotte, N. C., Dec. 30, 1956*. (Upon being told of the presence of the immature Blue Goose I visited the lake, Nov. 13 and watched it for upwards to one-half hour at a distance of about 100 yards with a 30X Baiscope. Checking against Kortright (1943) I concluded it must be a first year Blue rather than a White-front. The heel and upper tarsus, visible occasionally as the bird turned away, were definitely blackish. The blackish bill had begun to change—the tip was flesh-colored. The "grinning patch" did not seem conspicuous.—BRC).

Fall Records of Golden and Upland Plovers at Pea Island.—Writing from Norfolk, Va., Sept. 16, 1956, Paul Sykes, Jr., reports that he, J. E. Ames, P. Dulaney, and F. C. Richardson visited the Pea Island-Oregon Inlet area of Dare Co., N. C., Sept. 15, and saw a Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) in a flock of about one dozen Black-bellied Plovers. They were able to compare the two species carefully, both in flight and standing. The party was within 25 yards of the Golden Plover and watched it through 7x35 binoculars. The bird was in fall plumage. The absence of black axillars was noted and commented upon.—*Dept. Ed.*

Hurricane (?) Displacements at Greensboro.—Yesterday, Sept. 28, 1956, I observed a phalarope here in Greensboro. The bird was alone and I watched it swimming along a marshy bank for about one minute. The horn of a car passing nearby frightened the bird and it left. I watched it in flight and there is no doubt in my mind that it was a Northern Phalarope.

I called Jim Mattocks of High Point to come over this morning. We were not successful in finding the phalarope but in the course of the morning search we flushed 4 Sora Rails and heard at least 4 more, and we found well over 100 Marsh Wrens (Long-billed). The best find, however, was an excellent specimen of a Sharp-tailed Sparrow. We realize that this bird is out of its known habitat. It was a well-marked specimen and both of us observed it closely.—LARRY CRAWFORD, JR., *Greensboro, N. C.* (There are inland records for at least two of the races of Sharp-tails in Virginia (Murray: *Check-List of the Birds of Virginia* 1952). It seems reasonable to associate the presence of the phalarope, wrens and sparrow with hurricane Flossy which spent itself over the Carolinas on the 23rd and 24th of September.—*Dept. Ed.*).

Black-necked Stilt Breeding on the North Carolina Coast.—While birding in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area (Dare Co., N. C.) on July 24, 1956, my husband called me over to a small rain-water pond to watch an adult Black-necked Stilt. It waded around for twenty fascinating minutes, then flew off. We assumed that he was a wanderer and would never be seen again. However, on our daily trips up and down the coastal area, we continued to watch for him; and on the 27th., we again found him in the rain pool. He flew off in the same direction as before and we decided to try to track him down. Fortunately, we were properly dressed for combating mosquitoes and wading through marshes. We crossed to where we had last seen the bird flying and presently he appeared flying excitedly back and forth like a nesting bird. Our uncomfortable wait was rewarded; I suddenly spotted a female! We spent several hours looking for a nest without success.

Early the next morning (July 28) we entered the brackish marsh from another angle, and a fortunate move it was. From practically at our feet the stilts began to fly up—first the adult male, then the female, then 3 immature birds . . . and, best of all, there was left behind one little stilt, with some downy feathers, who hadn't yet learned to fly! After much maneuvering, we finally cornered it and took several pictures. (See cut).

Young Black-necked Stilt.



You can imagine our elation upon reading that the Black-necked Stilt has not been known to breed in the Hatteras area for about 100 years. Our last view of these stilts was on July 30th., on which day we returned to Arlington.—MRS. IRWIN C. HOOVER, *Arlington, Virginia, August 1, 1956*. (See *Briefs*, in Sept. '56 *Chat* for nesting behavior of stilts on upper South Carolina coast).

Sprague's Pipit in Aiken County, South Carolina.—In the early afternoon of November 1, 1956,—a still, clear, unseasonably warm day,—I was carrying out studies of Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) in a large open expanse, a mosaic of old fields, in the Savannah River Plant area, southwestern Aiken County, South Carolina. Presently a small bird was heard and seen flying over at a height of about 150 feet; it was giving two-syllabled call notes that were unfamiliar to me. Though pipit-like, they were slightly lower in pitch, more metallic, and more raspy or wheezy than were notes of the Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*). The bird flew on until lost from sight in a southerly direction, but soon another of the same kind came over. As this one sped southward, I noticed that its calls were synchronized with the shallow dips in its somewhat undulating flight. When all but lost from sight, it gradually circled and then headed back in my general direction—or toward a central part of the open expanse. Suddenly it lost altitude and pitched to the ground not a hundred yards from where I stood. After stalking the bird and glimpsing its graceful walking movements (there was no tail-wagging), I confirmed my suspicion by collecting it—verily, a Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*). I must say I would have preferred to watch rather than shoot this creature, but owing to the rarity of the species in South Carolina and to our need of establishing, for the "SRP" area, at least one definite, specimen-based record of almost any rarity that might appear, I felt as though I had little choice in the matter.

The bird, a female, weighed 19.5 grams and had very little fat. It appeared to be an adult rather than a bird of the year, for the skull was fully ossified. Its stomach was perhaps less than half full. About 90 per cent of the material was comprised of small insects, mostly beetles; a tiny bit of gravel and a sizable, maroon-colored seed, shaped like a convex lens, made up the rest of the contents.

The site of collection was a relatively sandy, sterile part of "field 3-412," which is really an aggregate of old fields totalling about 150 acres and forming the greater part of the open expanse. Some 500 feet from the site lay a shallow, marshy sink or "Carolina bay." The spot where the bird landed was characterized by small patches and alleyways of open ground interspersed with a ubiquitous biennial called camphor weed (*Heterotheca subaxillaris*). This weed, a member of the sunflower family Compositae, was present in two growth forms: (1) dead plants, most of which had been somewhat depauperate, of the previous growing season, and (2) low, green, overwintering rosettes, of which there were ten or more per square foot. A few scattered clumps of dogfennel (*Eupatorium* spp.) and "broomsedge" (*Andropogon* spp.) were also in the near vicinity. Except for the broomsedge, there were no grasses near by, the vegetation being largely of forbs (non-grassy herbs). This sort of habitat is of some interest, the more so since Denton's records (Oriole, 18: 37-48, 1953) of Sprague's Pipits at the Daniel Field Airport, in Augusta, Georgia, were made in a specialized type of habitat—an area of "short, sparse grass, with intermingling bare areas covering a dry or well drained area."

From an examination of Sprunt and Chamberlain's *South Carolina Bird Life*, 1949, and of more recent literature, I gather that the present specimen is the third specimen (and fourth record) of Sprague's Pipit in South Carolina, and the first instance of its occurrence since November 1, 1904 (52 years to the day!), when Arthur T. Wayne saw a bird and even heard it sing. This record is chronicled by Wayne in his *Birds of South Carolina*, 1910, as are his two records of specimens, one on November 24, 1893, and one on November 17, 1900. Notable among findings

relative to this species in other southeastern states in recent years are those embodied in Denton's studies in the Augusta area (*loc. cit.*; for a more recent Augusta record, see B. R. Chamberlain, *Audubon Field Notes*, 10 (3): 243, 1956), and those established by Herbert L. Stoddard, Sr., Henry M. Stevenson, and others in several localities in northern Florida (*vide* Denton, *loc. cit.*; Stevenson, *Audubon Field Notes*, 9 (1): 21, 1955).

At this writing (December 10, 1956), Sprague's Pipits are still present in field 3-412. Specific observations are as follows: On November 9, two were noted briefly by Eugene Odum and me as they flushed from "3-412b," an 11-acre plot similar to that described above but having somewhat richer soil and heavier forb vegetation. Though Water Pipits, sometimes as many as 50 individuals, were present on the expanse throughout November, there were no additional observations of Sprague's until December 5, when I noted three in 3-412b. I had a fine, close-up, sunlit view of the head and back of a bird on the ground; it regarded me suspiciously for about one minute before walking a few feet away, then flying several hundred feet to another site in the same plot. As recorded on the 5th, the call notes of this pipit, while often two-syllabled, may be given singly, or they may be repeated in rapid succession as many as six times (as was once heard from an individual on the ground); variation in number and spacing of syllables is considerable, then, and is reminiscent of that of the Water Pipit. In quality, however, the notes of Sprague's Pipit remain distinctive, and once learned they are unmistakable. These notes were heard in or near 3-412b on December 6, 7, and 9. It is hoped that this pipit will remain in the Savannah River Plant area all winter and that it, as well as the Water Pipit, will lend itself to further observation.—ROBERT A. NORRIS (*University of Georgia Ecological Studies, AEC Savannah River Plant area*), 1918 Hahn Avenue, Aiken, S. C.

(Writing on Jan. 5, Norris states that, although he has been in the area fairly regularly, he has not seen Sprague's Pipits since Dec. 17.—*Dept. Ed.*)

Blue Grosbeak Nesting on the S. C. Coast.—The Blue Grosbeak was found nesting near Charleston on May 27th this year. Records from this section on this species are very sketchy . . . Sprunt and Chamberlain, in *South Carolina Bird Life*, (1949), say they have encountered the Blue Grosbeak but two or three times in the low country and Wayne observed only one nest during his entire career.

The nest I found this spring was a surprise find, so to speak. I was in a cut-over field at Ashley Hall Plantation on the banks of the Ashley river across from Charleston and my attention was directed to the Chats, Painted Buntings and Field Sparrows that inhabit this particular spot each year.

A strange call from an oak tree captured my curiosity. After some searching I saw the male Blue Grosbeak sitting motionless and well hidden near the top of the tree. He gave no indication of nesting and after watching him for a while I returned to the search for nests of the other species. As I passed near a myrtle bush (*Myrica Cerifera*) I flushed the female Grosbeak from her nest.

The nest, which held four pale bluish eggs, without markings, was constructed of weeds, leaves and grasses and placed five feet from the ground near the outer branches of the bush. However, the overhanging foliage from the branches above concealed the nest quite nicely. The height of the myrtle bush was between 7 and 8 feet.—ERNEST CUTTS, *Charleston, S. C., July 26, 1956.*

Evening Grosbeaks: Two Banding Returns.—On Mar. 10, 1956 I collected two banded female Evening Grosbeaks in my backyard in suburban west Raleigh. They were taken from a flock of up to forty grosbeaks which came daily to my yard during March and April. Among them were at least three additional banded Evening Grosbeaks which I was unable to collect.

The collected bands, Nos. 50-178,479 and 50-138,935, were forwarded to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and I have been informed that the first was placed by A. H. Fast at Arlington, Virginia, May 4, 1952 and

the second by Mrs. Howard Drew (now deceased) at Barre, Vermont, in 1952, probably late April or early May.—T. L. QUAY, *Raleigh, N. C., Sept. 4, 1956* (Arthur Fast, reporting the 1951-52 invasion of Evening Grosbeaks in Northern Virginia—*The Raven*, July-August, 1952—states that he banded 104 males and 211 females at his station at Arlington that winter, where at least one bird, a female, remained until the afternoon of May 17. In commenting on the Arlington bird, Chandler Robbins writes: "The few recoveries on the Virginia and Maryland birds from 1951-52 indicate that these individuals did not participate in the 1954-55 flight to the Southeast, but did participate in the 1955-56 flight."—*Dept. Ed*).

Painted Bunting: Notes on a Fall Molt.—Last year (1955) I kept a record of the appearance of a molting male Painted Bunting in our yard at Edisto Beach, S. C. The entries are incomplete but the record may be of interest.

	Aug. 24	Aug. 29	Sept. 2	Sept. 5	Sept. 10
HEAD	<i>Grayish brown</i>	<i>"moth eaten"</i>	....	....	<i>beginning to look blue</i>
CROWN	<i>small, very dark blue or black cap</i>	....	....	....	....
NECK	<i>bare</i>	....	....	<i>Still bare</i>	<i>some feathers</i>
BACK	<i>green, with a few red- dish feathers interspersed</i>	<i>more green</i>	....	<i>green mantle</i>	....
BREAST	<i>grayish brown</i>	<i>with large splashes of red</i>	<i>more red</i>	<i>more red</i>	<i>more red</i>
ABDOMEN	....	....	....	<i>tan</i>	....
TAIL	<i>none</i>	<i>a few short feathers</i>	....	<i>about normal, rump red</i>	....

Absence in the late fall has prevented the accumulation of departure dates. Here are some dates of arrival of the Painted Buntings at our place:

Males—Apr. 15, '54; Apr. 16, '55; Apr. 18, '56.

Females—Apr. 24, '54; Apr. 18, '55; Apr. 24, '56.

TINA (MRS. PAUL L.) ATWOOD, *Edisto Island, S. C., June 29, 1956.*

Lark Sparrow Near Charleston.—On Sept. 30, 1956, my wife and I had the unusual good fortune to see a Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) on Folly Island, Charleston County, S. C. When first noted at 7:15 in the morning it was perched on a power line near the Coast Guard station. It was not especially shy and, although it changed its perch to different positions along the wire several times, we had little difficulty in keeping it under close observation for about fifteen minutes. It finally flew some distance into the dunes and we lost it.

The early morning sun was shining brightly but softly behind us. "Seeing" could not have been better. We studied the bird rather leisurely through 7x binoculars and through a 20x Balscope. Its chestnut ear coverts, the whitish line over the eye and through the center of the crown, its black whiskers, the spot on the otherwise unmarked breast, were all clearly visible. The small white spot in the chestnut auriculars was conspicuous through the scope. When it flew from one perch to another the blackish tail outlined with white-tipped feathers could be clearly seen.

On three trips to the west by car we had seen Lark Sparrows many times.

We are aware, however, of its rare occurrence in South Carolina.—ROBERT H. COLEMAN, *Route 8, Charleston, S. C.*

TV Tower Fatalities at Chapel Hill.—On Monday, October 1, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Walters, Bill Roe and I drove to the television tower some six miles west of Chapel Hill to investigate reports of birds colliding with the tower and its lights during the fall migration south.

I was totally unprepared, even after reading other accounts of migrant fatalities, for what we found. The bodies of birds were scattered so thickly around the base of the tower and an estimated one hundred feet out on all sides, that it was difficult to walk without stepping on them. All seemed to have broken necks and few had fractured breast bones and broken bills. This gives some indication of the force with which they collided. From the information available we are told that small birds generally fly at a rate of between thirty-five and forty miles per hour.

The tower is built on one of the highest hills in this area and is seven hundred and eighty-eight (788) feet high. The lights on the tower are red and grouped in sets of six at space intervals of ten feet.

The major part of the birds present on October 1 had hit the tower on Friday night, September 28 when the ceiling was quite low. This condition forces birds to fly at a lower level than they usually do. This was, interestingly enough, only two days after what was left of "Flossy," the hurricane which had roared through North Carolina and up the coast. There is, in all probability, a definite connection between the two events.

The four of us picked up every different species we could find, all those that appeared different in any way and there was great duplication.

On the following afternoon, October 2, the four of us assisted by Mrs. Matt Thompson, spent some three hours going over the birds and identifying them. Out of 125 individuals, 40 different species were represented. It was estimated by the group that we had brought back approximately 5% of the total birds dead at the base of the tower. This would indicate that there were approximately 2,500 individuals killed.

Following is a list of the different species we collected with numbers of each: Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, 1; House Wren, 4; Marsh Wren (Long-billed), 2; Catbird, 2; Brown Thrasher, 1; Wood Thrush, 1; Olive-backed Thrush, 2; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 2; Veery, 2; Red-eyed Vireo, 11; these warblers: Black and White, 7; Prothonotary, 2; Worm-eating, 2; Tennessee, 2; Parula, 1; Yellow, 1; Magnolia, 7; Black-throated Blue, 4; Blackburnian, 1; Yellow-throated, 1; Chestnut-sided, 5; Bay-breasted, 3; Black-poll, 1; Prairie, 3; Palm (Western), 1; Ovenbird, 4; Small-billed Water-Thrush (Northern), 2; Kentucky Warbler, 2; Connecticut, 1; Yellowthroat, 23 (6 mature males, 17 females or imm. males); Yellow-breasted Chat, 4; Hooded Warbler, 2; Wilson's, 1, Am. Redstart, 4; Bobolink, 2; Baltimore Oriole, 1; Indigo Bunting, 2 (females); Grasshopper Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 1.

On October 3 the ceiling was again low so we returned to the tower on the 4th but found few new victims. There were, however, four new species represented with a Black-throated Green Warbler, 2 White-eyed Vireos, a Chimney Swift and a Flicker. This brought the total number of species up to 44. Three wounded Redstarts, 2 females and a male, were running about in the brush at the base of the tower apparently unable to fly.

It would seem that the combination of a low ceiling and the peak of the fall migration can be disastrous for many small birds. This has happened several times before but the number of species here seems quite large in comparison to some of the other reports. There did not seem to be a predominance of any one sex though it is difficult to know exactly at this season. Most of the warblers were in moult or immature plumage though there were few males in typical breeding plumage such as the Parula, Black-throated Blue (no females of this species found), Black-Throated Green, Yellow-throated and Prothonotary. As many as ten variations in the plumage of the Redstart were found ranging all the way from immature females through males with typical breeding plumage.—JOHN TROTT, *Chapel Hill, N. C., October 10, 1956.*

In the December 1956, *Chat*, page 80, under "Coastal Survey and Banding" there was an omission of important data.

Prior to 1956 one pair of Glossy Ibis had successfully nested on Battery Island, in Southport Harbor, Brunswick County, N. C. This was found and reported by Waters Thompson in 1940. (*Chat*, May, '41, p. 47).

In 1956 about 15 pairs of these birds were again nesting at Battery Island. These were in the colony with Cattle Egrets, for the latter the first recorded nesting in this State.

The omission referred to above is the report that in early July, 1956, six pairs of Glossy Ibis were found nesting on Starvation Island. For the record this island is 90 miles northeast of Battery Island. It is in the wide tidal estuary known as Newport River, and about a mile north of the causeway between Morehead City and Beaufort. This is the northernmost nesting record of this species.

The banding report included 3 Cattle Egrets and 2 Glossy Ibis banded by proxy John Funderburg at Battery Island. John Thompson caught a flying young Glossy Ibis at Starvation Island, and this is submitted as the northernmost banding of this species.—HARRY T. DAVIS, *Raleigh, N. C.*

—CBC—

CBC ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE!

March 29, 30 and 31 will be the dates for the annual CBC meeting. Raleigh, N. C., will be host city with headquarters at the North Carolina State Museum. Friday night John Trott and Bill Craven are planning to show colored slides. Saturday there will be papers sessions both in the morning and afternoon and a business meeting with election of officers. Committee meetings will be scheduled. An evening lecture and Audubon Screen Tour by Laura Reynolds will take place Saturday after dinner. Details in the *News Letter*.—Ed.

NOTICE OF SPRING COUNT FOR 1957

Eleven locations in the Carolinas made spring counts in 1956. A wider coverage would give a far more complete picture of bird populations at this season of the year. Latter April or around May 1 is the time, or at the peak of your migration. It is suggested that you use Christmas count areas.

Turn in your reports with both **species** and **individual** counts. Send to B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C., who will compile the lists for a later issue of *The Chat*.—Ed. (*South Carolina should take a healthier interest in this!*)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUMMER FIELD STUDIES IN ORNITHOLOGY AND BIOLOGY

The University of Michigan Biological Station will conduct two courses and a research program in ornithology this summer at its permanent camp on Douglas Lake in northern Michigan. This work will be led by the eminent ornithologist, Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr.

In addition, fifteen other courses and research on many aspects of field and fresh-water biology, under the guidance of a faculty of sixteen other prominent biologists, will be conducted. Approximately thirty grants-in-aid of \$100 to \$300 each will be selectively awarded, and twenty-five self-help jobs will be available.

For full information, address Biological Station, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.



Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	\$1.00	Contributing	\$25.00
Supporting	\$5.00	Affiliated Club	\$2.00
Life—\$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)			

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat* and the *Newsletter*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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Bulletin of



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Cover Photograph—Chipping Sparrow incubating eggs. Nest in grapevine. Photographed in late May, 1956, Martin Co., N. C., by Jack Dermid. Courtesy of N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

The Chat

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Greetings! What a fine meeting that was, our 20th anniversary, and how much there is to do in the next couple of decades. How much water has gone under the bridge—a world changed—since that day we organized! Some of those who helped lay the foundations—I am thinking particularly of the two Brimleys—are birding in Elysian fields. But their groundwork was excellent, and we treasure their memories.

Personally, I hesitated about accepting the presidency as I am already Chairman of Conservation of Natural Resources—with another year to serve—for the N. C. Federation of Woman's Clubs, but realizing we are all working towards the same goal, CONSERVATION, and an appreciation and understanding of Nature, and that we could and should work together, I accepted and will do what I can. In my year's work with NCFWC I have stressed CBC, its work and *The Chat* as well as the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission and its fine publication *Wildlife in North Carolina*, and also the N. C. State Museum and its offerings.

All groups working towards a common goal! I should like to see closer ties with the National Audubon Society. I should particularly like to lay stress on our members encouraging Audubon Junior Clubs in schools, summer camps, scouts, church and neighborhood groups. Also, shouldn't other cities put on those excellent Audubon Screen Tours—as Raleigh (7th year), Greensboro, Wilmington and Charleston are doing? The cost, for a series of five, is \$500.00; for three, \$350.00. If that is too much to tackle at once, how about a single one, as Raleigh did for many years? Or 2-3 nearby towns or cities putting on one or more, cooperatively? Remember, some of these same wildlife-photographers-lecturers are used in Walt Disney's famous films!

How about again placing stress on our own regional leaders? Remember what an excellent job Bill Joyner of Rocky Mount, did? How about other leaders, in other regions?

Let us, in CBC, borrow as a project, an idea we have been working on in our Department of Conservation—that of putting books and magazines on conservation or some phase of natural history, in public and/or school libraries. (A project of the Oxford Junior Woman's Club is to put *Wildlife in N. C.* in each room of each school in Oxford. Fine, that!) I am also urging membership in CBC, and subscriptions to *The Chat* for schools and libraries.

Another project I should like to see CBC stress, is a good stiff study of the Birds of Prey and their place in the balance of nature. It seems to me, in my recent travels about the state, that I have seen fewer of the soaring hawks, the "living mousetraps" yet they are the ones most commonly shot! Let us get across to schools and the public in general, the importance of these birds! How about ordering, in quantities, Audubon Circular 25 "HAWKS—What They Look Like in the Air," and place them on bulletin boards in schools—and other places? Two would be necessary for each display, as the other side shows "What Hawks Eat."

How good it was at our recent meeting to have two of our younger members, John Trott of New London (now working for his master's at UNC) and William Craven of Raleigh, put on their excellent program, showing their fine slides and movies. Let us encourage more of our younger members to participate. It was good, too, at that meeting, to have with us—after too long an absence—Dr. Carey Bostian, Chancellor of State College, one of the original seven who conceived the idea of a Bird Club.

CHARLOTTE HILTON GREEN

EARLY NOTES ON CAROLINA BIRDS

W. L. MCATEE

These are presented for your interest by their compiler, who claims no other merit. The reader will judge of the credibility of observations on points we feel we understand better now. Of possible arrangements of the notes, division by species would involve repetition of contexts and references. As between an alphabetical-by-authors presentation and a chronological one, it is felt that the latter is preferable. This is a chance assortment, which even with the Lawson-Brickell predecessor,* is not to be re-

* *Chat* 19(4):74-77, 1955; 20(2):23-28, 1956
garded as complete. To save repeating, it may be well to state here that the Charleston buzzards that attracted the attention of all early visitors to that city included both the Turkey and Black Vultures.

TIME OF OBSERVATION, 1783-1784

Suffolk, Virginia, to Edenton, North Carolina, December 1783.

There is more than a page of comment on "The Buzzard (*Vultur Aura* L.)," that is, the Turkey Vulture. Main points: "the buzzard can scent carrion many miles . . . it never or very rarely ventures against living animals . . . it is forbidden by law to kill it . . . It is said they leave untouched the dead bodies of men." (Vol. II, pp. 104-105).

After some general remarks upon passage-birds, he wrote: "A sort of swan was mentioned, similar to the European . . . none was seen by me. Wild turkeys are not only numerous here, but of good weight." (Vol. II, p. 105). [The swans were probably Whistling Swans.]

Near New Bern, North Carolina, January 1784

"The red bird and the blue bird (*Loxia Cardinalis* and *caerulea* L.) frequently appeared hereabouts . . . Swallows come hither from the south the last of March and early in April, and stay until late in November. At Charleston they are absent hardly longer than from December to February." (Vol. II, pp. 127-128). [The birds mentioned by technical names are the Cardinal and the Blue Grosbeak.]

Charleston, South Carolina, January-February 1784

There is a paragraph on buzzards, that is vultures, species unidentified (Vol. II, p. 195) and one on the Purple Martin (pp. 195-196). Buzzards were seen everywhere in the streets of Charleston and were protected. "There are those who believe that if a buzzard lights upon a house in which an ill man lies, it is a fatal sign for they imagine the bird has wind of the corpse already." The Martins come as early as the end of February. Gourds are put up for them to nest in as they are valued as protectors of poultry against birds of prey.

Johann David Schoepf

Travels in the Confederation [1783-1784]. Philadelphia, 2 vols. 1911. The original was published at Erlangen, Germany, 2 parts, 1788.

TIME OF OBSERVATION, PRIOR TO 1784

Halifax to Beaufort Counties, North Carolina, November, prior to 1784

"There are . . . wild turkies very large fat and fine, wild-geese, ducks

* *Chat* 19(4):74-77, 1955; 20(2):23-28, 1956

... also woodpeckers and jays of several different kinds . . . " (Vol. I, p. 149). [Only the turkey is specifically identifiable.]

James Francis Dalzell Smyth

A tour in the United States of America . . . London, 2 vols. 1784

TIME OF OBSERVATION, 1786

Edenton, North Carolina, June 12, 1786

"I . . . killed a large white heron, about five feet long from his feet, as he hung, to the tip of his bill" (p. 272). [The American Egret.]

Robert Hunter, Jr.

Quebec to Carolina in 1785-1786 [etc.]. San Marino, California, 1943.

TIME OF OBSERVATION, 1796

Charleston, South Carolina, Spring, 1796

"Cleanliness in the streets, as well as houses is greatly neglected. Offensive smells are very frequent . . . and carcasses are frequently suffered to lie uninterred. A bird, which in point of plumage and shape is much like a turkey, and is known in the country under the name of *turkey-buzzard* soon devours the carcass, and merely leaves the bones; but the voracity of this bird cannot excuse the indolence of the police. It is very common all over South Carolina, and, in some measure, worshipped by the inhabitants of the town. No law, it is true, has been enacted, which prohibits to kill this bird, but the public opinion, nevertheless, carefully attends to its preservation." (Vol. II, p. 417).

South Carolina, presumably 1796.

In an account of rice culture, we read that, "Before the blade grows up, it is attacked by small worms, which gnaw the root. It is also frequently injured by littles fishes that live in the water which covers the swamps. The rice is then only defended by the heron (*ardea alba minor*) [Both the Snowy Egret and the white phase of the Little Blue Heron may have been involved.] which feeds on these little worms and fishes; and on this account is spared by the planters as much as the turkey buzzard is by the town's people.

"When the rice is ripe, it is assailed by innumerable quantities of small birds, which are known in Carolina by the name of rice-birds. The young negroes, who are constantly kept there, frighten them away; this is a better method than shooting them; yet these voracious birds cannot be entirely kept off." (Vol. II, p. 489). [Rice birds were primarily the Bobolink, but included also Red-winged and other blackbirds, and Blue Grosbeaks and other Fringillids.]

Francois . . . Duc de la Rochefoucault d'Liancourt.

Travels through the United States of North America . . . in the years 1795 . . . 1797, [etc.]. London, 4 vols. 1799. French original, Paris, 8 vols., also 1799.

TIME OF OBSERVATION, 1798-1799

Coosawhatchee, Colleton County, South Carolina. Winter 1798-Spring 1799.

"Of the feathered race, the mockingbird first claims my notice. It is perfectly domestic, and sings frequently for hours on the roof of a log-

house. It is held sacred by the natives. Even children respect the bird whose imitative powers are so delightful. [Then follows an indifferent paragraph and an Ode of six stanzas to the Mockingbird.] (pp. 85-87).

"The hummingbird [Ruby-throated] was often caught in the bells of flowers. It is remarkable for its variegated plumage of scarlet, green, and gold.

"The whip-poor-will is heard after the last frost, when towards night, it fills the wood with its melancholy cry . . .

"The note of the red-bird [Cardinal] is imitated with nice precision by the mocking-bird; but there is a bird called the loggerhead [Southern Shrike] that will not bear passively its taunts. His cry resembles *clink*, *clink*, *clank*; which should the mocking-bird presume to imitate it, he flies and attacks the mimic for his insolence. But this only incurs a repetition of the offense . . . It is observable that the loggerhead is known to suck the eggs of the mocking-bird and devour the young ones in the nest."

"Eagles [bald] were often seen on the plantation. The rencounter between one of them and a fish-hawk [osprey] is curious" [Then follows the usual account.] (p. 88).

"Sometimes we fired volleys at the flocks of [mourning] doves that frequent the corn fields; sometimes we discharged our pieces at the wild geese, whose empty cacklings betrayed them; and once we brought down some paroquets [Carolina Parakeets] that were directing their course over our heads to Georgia." (p. 91).

[There are also a number of brief references to the Whip-poor-will and Mocking-bird, which though useful to the student of distribution, are not here reproduced.]

John Davis.

Travels of Four Years and a Half in the United States of America during 1798 . . . 1802. New York, N. Y. 1909. Originally published in London, 1803.

TIME OF OBSERVATION, PRIOR TO 1807

Edenton, North Carolina, prior to 1807.

"In North Carolina, wild pigeons or doves pass over the country, in such numbers as to darken the air, devouring all kinds of grain in their progress. A large musket, loaded with small shot, fired among them, has killed scores; and boys knock them down with sticks and stones. I did not see this destructive phenomenon, but was credibly informed at Edenton, that it occurs about once in seven, and sometimes in ten years. During my residence in that state, I cut holes in the top of my barn, and by placing food on the roof, soon noticed about half a dozen from the adjacent woods. In a short time they became domesticated, and fed with the fowls; affording a constant and agreeable food. When I left my residence, they had, notwithstanding the use I made of the young ones, increased to many score. They grew so familiar, that they would watch my appearance in the morning, and perch upon me, in hopes of obtaining food, with which it was my practice to supply them. They distinguished me from my domestics, whom they would not suffer to approach them. They would permit me to go into their dovecote, without retreating, and the dam would

often oppose my taking her young ones." (pp. 67-68). [Passenger Pigeon.] Charles William Janson.

The Stranger in America: Containing Observations Made During a Long Residence in That Country [etc.]. London, 1807.

TIME OF OBSERVATION, 1808

Charleston, South Carolina, January 1808.

The turkey buzzards draw the usual traveller attention, but this writer advises civic disposal of carrion in preference to dependence on the birds. (Vol. II, pp. 132-133).

Additional Charleston Note: Wild ducks, geese, turkeys, and other fowl, are brought to market by the country people, though not in very great abundance." (Vol. II, p. 143).

John Lambert.

Travels through Canada, and the United States of North America in the Years 1806 . . . 1808 [etc.] London, 2 vols. 1814. First edition, 1810.

TIME OF OBSERVATION PRIOR TO 1819

South Carolina, prior to 1819.

"The wild turkey, which is pretty common in the upper country, is often brought to Charleston market. Some of the largest and fattest have weighed from twenty-five to thirty pounds. The wild pigeon visits the state yearly in great numbers." (Vol. II, p. 411). [Wild Turkey and Passenger Pigeon.]

David Baillie Warden.

A Statistical, Political, and Historical Account of the United States of North America [etc.]. Edinburgh, 3 vols. 1819.

TIME OF OBSERVATION, 1819

Charleston, South Carolina, June 17, 1819.

"In the city . . . I saw large flocks of vultures, called turkey buzzards, because they are of the size and form of a turkey. At a neighboring city, Savannah, there is a law to enforce the fine of five dollars for every bird of this species wantonly killed. They fly about like carrion-crows in England, but so tame that you may walk amongst them and kill them easily. This, however, is not permitted, as they devour all filth and putrescence, and are considered as friends to the community at large." (Vol. XI, p. 99).

William Faux

Part I of Faux's Memorable Days in America, November 27, 1818-July 21, 1820. Reprint of the original, London 1823. [In] Early Western Travels . . . Edited by Reuben Gold Thwaites, Cleveland, Ohio, 1905. Vol. XI, pp. 21-305.

TIME OF OBSERVATION, 1825

En route, Tarborough to Fayetteville, North Carolina, December 1825.

"During several days we saw different species of birds unknown to me, especially a great many large vultures, called buzzards, the shooting of which is prohibited, as they feed upon carrion, and contribute in this manner to the salubrity of the country." (Vol. I, p. 206).

Charleston, South Carolina, December 1825.

"Upon the roofs of the market houses, sat a number of buzzards, who are supported by the offals. It is a species of vulture, black, with a naked head. Seen from a distance they resemble turkeys, for which reason they are denominated turkey-buzzards. They are not only suffered as very useful animals, but there is a fine of five dollars for the killing of one of these birds. A pair of these creatures were so tame that they crept about in the meat market among the feet of the buyers." (Vol. II, p. 7).

Karl Bernhard, Duke of Saxe-Weimar Eisenach.

Travels through North America . . . 1825 and 1826. Philadelphia. 2 vols., 1828. The German original was published the same year at Weimar.

TIME OF OBSERVATION, ABOUT 1839

Charleston, South Carolina, about the year 1839.

"As you walk the streets of Charleston, rows of greedy vultures, with sapient look, sit on the parapets of the houses, watching for offal. These birds are great blessings in warm climates, and in Carolina a fine of ten dollars is inflicted for wantonly destroying them. They appeared to be quite conscious of their privileges, and sailed down from the house-tops into the streets, where they stalked about, hardly caring to move out of the way of the horses and carriages passing. They are of an eagle-brown colour, and many of them appeared well conditioned, even to obesity." (pp. 203-204).

J. Benwell.

An Englishman's Travels in America [etc.], London. 1853.

TIME OF OBSERVATION, 1842

Charleston, South Carolina, January 1842.

"On the banks of the Cooper river, we heard occasionally the melodious and liquid note of the mocking-bird in the woods. It is of a fearless disposition, and approaches very near to the houses." (Vol. I, p. 142).

Charles Lyell.

Travels in North America in the Years 1841-2 [etc.]. New York. 2 vols., 1845.

TIME OF OBSERVATION, 1845

Smithfield, a village at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, North Carolina, December 23, 1845.

"Coming to a marsh, I put up many peewits, which flew round me, uttering a cry resembling that of our European species." (Vol. I, p. 220). [It is likely that these peewits (British for the lapwing) were Killdeers.]

Charleston, South Carolina, December 1845.

"The number of turkey buzzards is surprising. I have seen nine of them perched side by side like so many bronze statues, breaking the long line of a roof in the clear blue sky, while others were soaring in the air, each feather, at the extremity of their extended wings, being spread out, so as to be seen separate from the rest. A . . . friend, whom we met here, seeing my interest in the birds, told me that they are the sole scavengers of the place, and a fine of five dollars is imposed on any person who kills one." (Vol. I, p. 229).

Charles Lyell.

A Second Visit to the United States of North America. New York, 2 vols. 1850.

TIME OF OBSERVATION, 1854

Great Peedee River, South Carolina, 1854.

"Large black buzzards were constantly in sight, sailing slowly, high above the tree-tops. Flocks of larks, quails, and robins were common, as were also doves, swiftly flying in small companies. The red-headed woodpecker could at any time be heard hammering, and would sometimes show himself, after his rat-tat, cocking his head archly, and listening to hear if the worm moved under the bark. The drivers told me that they had, on previous days, as they went over the road, seen deer, turkeys, and wild hogs." (Vol. II, pp. 8-9). [Buzzards not certainly identifiable; the others: Meadowlark, Bob-white, American Robin, Mourning Dove; woodpecker uncertain; and Wildturkey.]

Near Charleston, South Carolina, 1854.

"Sparrows were chirping, doves cooing, and a mocking-bird whistling loudly." (Vol. II, p. 37). Mourning dove and mockingbird.

Frederick Law Olmsted.

A Journey in the Seaboard Slave States in the Years 1853-1854. [Etc.] New York, 2 vols. 1904. Originally issued 1856.

TIME OF OBSERVATION, 1861

Charleston, South Carolina, April 17, 1861.

"There is a sort of vulture or buzzard here, much encouraged as scavengers, and—but all the world has heard of the Charleston vultures—so we will leave them to their garbage. (p. 99). [But he changed his mind.]

Same place, April 19, 1861.

"Around the flesh-market there is a skirling crowd of a kind of turkey-buzzard; they are useful as scavengers and are protected by law. They do their nasty work very zealously, descending on the offal thrown out to them with the peculiar crawling, puffy, soft sort of flight which is the badge of all their tribe, and contending with wing and beak against the dogs which dispute the viands with the harpies. It is curious to watch the expression of their eyes as with outstretched necks they peer down from the ledge of the market roof on the stalls and scrutinize the operations of the butchers below. They do not prevent a disagreeable odor in the vicinity of the markets, nor are they deadly to a fine and active breed of rats." (p. 120).

A small plantation near Charleston, South Carolina, April 21, 1861.

"We sat listening to the wonderful song of the mocking-birds." (p. 126).

En route Georgetown to the Peedee River, South Carolina, April 22, 1861.

"a road cut deep in the bosom of the woods, where silence was only broken by the cry of a woodpecker, the scream of a crane, or the sharp challenge of the jay." (p. 129). [Only the last—the Blue-Jay—can be identified.]

White House Plantation on the Peedee River, April 23, 1861.

Describing the efforts of a hummingbird to escape from a conservatory, he wrote: "it darted up and down from pane to pane, seeking to perforate each with its bill, and carrying death and destruction among the big spiders and their cobweb-castles, which for the time barred the way. . . .

Encumbered by cobwebs and exhausted, now and then our little friend toppled down among the green shrubs, and lay panting like a living nugget

of ore. Again it took wing and resumed that mad career; but at last on some happy turn the bright head saw an opening through the door, and out wings, body, and legs dashed, and sought shelter on a creeper, where the little flutterer lay, all but dead, so inanimate, indeed, that I could have taken the lovely thing and put it in the hollow of my hand . . . What would Hafiz, or Waller, or Spenser have sung, had they but seen that offspring of the sun and flowers?" (pp. 132-133). [Ruby-throated Hummingbird.]

Heyward Plantation near Pocotaligo, South Carolina, April 26, 1861.

"Whilst we were sitting in the porch, a strange sort of booming noise attracted my attention in one of the trees. 'It is a rain-crow,' said Mr. Heyward; 'a bird which we believe to foretell rain. I'll shoot it for you.' And, going into the hall, he took down a double-barrelled fowling-piece, walked out and fired into the tree; whence the rain-crow, poor creature, fell fluttering to the ground and died. It seemed to me a kind of cuckoo . . . I could gather no facts to account for the impression that its call is a token of rain." (p. 139). [Yellow-billed Cuckoo.]

"My attention was also called to a curious kind of snake-killing hawk or falcon, which makes an extraordinary noise by putting its wings, point upwards, close together, above its back, so as to offer no resistance to the air, and then, beginning to descend from a great height, with fast-increasing rapidity, makes, by its rushing through the air, a strange loud hum, till it nears the ground, when the bird stops its downward swoop, and flies in a curve over the meadow. This I saw two of these birds doing repeatedly tonight." (p. 139). [This confused account relates essentially to the Nighthawk, but it is resistance to the air of its V-spread wings that makes the sound. The snake-killing hawk is the Swallow-tailed Kite (mentioned also on p. 149), but South Carolinians certainly would not have mistaken it for the bullbat, or *vice versa*.]

William Howard Russell.

My Diary, North and South. Boston, 1863. Published simultaneously also in New York and London.

TIME OF OBSERVATION, 1862

Conway, South Carolina, June 1862

"also, breaking the silence of the night, the mournful cry of the 'whip-poor-will.' I had feared . . . it would be too hot for singing-birds; but on the contrary the mocking-bird, plain to eye but charming to ear, sent forth its varied song by night and by day . . ." (p. 48.)

Wateree River east of Columbia, South Carolina, July 10, 1862.

"the mocking-bird cheered the weary hours." (p. 107).

Conway, South Carolina, July 11, 1862.

"mocking-birds were singing all day close to the house." (p. 109).

Hendersonville, North Carolina, September 30, 1862.

"I saw, in a bed of red salvias, about twenty humming-birds . . . They seem too frail and beautiful for this rough world. A gentleman one day, in this garden, found one caught in a spider's web, and the very act of

(Continued on Page 50)

BIRDS AND THE CHINESE TALLOW TREE

IVAN R. TOMKINS

Titles are of various sorts. Sometimes they may be likened to a handle for cataloging, a sort of way to get hold of a hot subject. Otherwise they furnish an avenue of entrance to a subject, which the reader may enter or pass by. The one above is of that category, and because of the kind of people who may have access to this, the word "birds" has been placed first.

Many years have passed since Benjamin Franklin sent some seeds of the Tallow Tree (*Triadica sebifera*) to a gentleman in Chatham County, Georgia. Perhaps he sent it to others in Charleston or elsewhere. No doubt the versatile and sometimes practical Benjamin had economic uses in mind, but they have not developed, and today, though the tree is widely spread and little known in our coastal region, there is no economic interest in its use as a forest tree, with its fast growth, the hard white almost grainless wood, or the prolific production of the buck-shot sized white berries with their coating of tallow and their interior content of oil.

Yet it is not any economic use, it is not the pleasure of watching the tree grow from a seedling to fruiting age in six years, not the unusual manner of growth of the leaves, or the white nutlets gleaming among the bare branches in mid-winter, but the use in attracting birds that prompts this paper.

Not long after the green leaves appear in spring, it bears long pendulous strings of diminutive yellow-green flowers. By mid-summer the tree is filled with the heavy green fruits in their three-sided capsules. In autumn the leaves turn a bright golden yellow—on the tree in my yard, at least,

The green fruit of the Chinese Tallow Tree in midsummer.



though some at the marsh edge have leaves with brilliant reds. As the leaves fall, the hulls of the berries split and draw back, leaving the white fruit to shine on the branches all winter. It was at this stage the Chinese used to gather the fruits and put them in boiling water to extract the tallow that lines the hulls and covers the seeds. From this product they made candles to worship the gods and for other more prosaic purposes. Inside the hard berries the kernels yield a bland oil, known to the Pharmacopoeia as Oil of Stillingia.

It is the persistence of the fruits that lets us see how much they are used by birds. The Brown Thrashers and Towhees twist off the seeds and swallow them whole. In late fall I scarcely ever go by the tree without finding a Cardinal there. The Blue Jay picks off a nutlet, puts it between his feet on a limb and beats it with his bill, woodpecker-like, until it is cracked open, then eats the kernel. Along the river banks, the Flickers and Mourning Doves frequent the trees and take their share. White-throated and Fox Sparrows also share in the harvest. The small throated birds, like the Myrtle Warbler, clamber among the twigs, and shave the tallow from the nutlets with the sides of the bill. But if the large-throated birds that swallow them whole are fed by the tree, they in turn serve the purpose of planting them, for the seeds appear to be viable after passing through the alimentary canal, and young Tallow Trees grow up here and there far from the parent tree.

Where the trees grow near the river edge, the seeds are water-borne too, and this may be the reason for the groves of trees along the river banks where the salinity is not too great. At any rate it is dominant in some places near the river bank.

Though not a large tree, I have known specimens that were eighteen inches in diameter, and in China, trees are said to be several hundred years old. In favored locations the young trees may put on an inch in diameter in a single season just before the tree reaches fruiting age.

Probably everyone has a favorite tree. This one is mine.—1231 East 50th St., Savannah, Ga., Dec. 5, 1956.



*When the leaves have gone
from the Chinese Tallow Tree,
the hulls split back
from the white berries.*

Photograph by the author.



BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAVER, Department Editor

This winter has been outstanding in the mid section of our state for the extra large flocks of visiting birds. The Robins were everywhere, cleaning up the heavy crop of berries on the trees and bushes all over the country side. When it seemed that the Robins must have consumed every berry, the Waxwings piled in, and started on the privet hedge, which was all that was left about our home. We even had Myrtle Warblers in flocks, both at the pond and feeding on the ground about the yard. But not one Purple Finch have I seen. [Out of 20 Christmas counts (see March *Chat*) only four areas reported them this year.]

It is interesting to study the differences in the distribution of various birds over our two Carolinas. A letter from Mrs. T. B. Winstead of Elm City, N. C., tells us of visiting Myrtle warblers in her yard, then goes on to say that she was so happy to have a Bluebird, the first she has seen there in town in the twelve years she has been living there! Yet she has most of the other common species, and has had Baltimore Orioles.

From Tabor City, N. C., Mrs. Frank Boswell writes as follows:

"On January 14 of this year, I saw a beautiful gold and black bird perched in the top of my young redbud tree, which is near my kitchen window. The beauty and brilliance of this bird defied description. I was so thrilled and excited that I actually spoke aloud to myself, "Oh, it must be a Baltimore Oriole!" But how could it be? I had never seen one before. I quickly opened my field guide, which I keep near me, and there it was, unmistakable . . . the Baltimore Oriole! I called a friend, Mrs. Helen Truett, who likes to watch birds, and invited her to have lunch with me, in order that she might share my new found backyard beauty. Each day the Oriole flew in and out of the yard. He drank from the birdbath and ate suet from a pine cone which hangs from the redbud tree. He also ate crumbs from the ground. On the 17th, I spotted the female on the ground near the tree. She ate and drank as the male. They flew in and out of the yard at short intervals all morning, but their visits were not so frequent in the afternoons. On the 29th, the male flew away, and has not returned to this date (Feb. 13). On Feb. 7, two b'rds flew in with the female, which were much brighter than she, but yet, not as colorful as the adult male. Am I right in calling them immature males?"

Mrs. G. E. Charles, from Aynor, S. C. also reports Baltimore Orioles:

Two females and one full-plumaged male arrived here on Jan. 19. The male was really a beautiful bird, especially when he was seen in bright sunlight. One of the females was smaller and duller than the other. They came often to the feeder on cold days, but not so often when the weather was warm. Sometimes I would see the three eating on the same feeder at the same time. They did not fight like those I had last year. They ate bread crumbs, suet or whatever they found. I put out half an apple, but they ignored that. The second week in March, I was sick and the bird feeder was neglected. I have not seen the male bird since then. On March 19, there were three females. Their colors became brighter toward the end of the month. Yesterday, I saw one of them (April 1). Today, I did not see any."

Since by the time this comes to you, our yards will be filled with baby birds, I think the following item from *The Lesser Squawk*, Charleston, S. C., is a helpful idea:

"Those of you who have tried raising a wild bird, either infant or injured adult, are aware that it is a very difficult task. Mrs. J. C. Green has met with considerable success, using her own formula for feeding nestlings. This summer she mothered a mocker and a sparrow, both of which had fallen from nests near her home. Both grew to maturity, and were turned loose. She had in the past, also raised an oriole and a starling. She says the starling had them all beat when it came to personality. The food formula is a mixture of pabulum, egg yolk and milk, plus a little wheat germ. The first feedings were used without the wheat germ, but the birds developed a weakness in their legs. The addition was suggested by a veterinarian. It did the trick.

The mockingbird and the sparrow that were raised together chummed around for two or three weeks after I released them, Mrs. Green said. The mocker would come when she whistled, and the sparrow would follow. Mrs. Green let the birds out in the daytime, then called them home in the evening by whistling, and put them to bed in their cage for safety. Food was given with a small stick, and water was given from an eyedropper. Mrs. Green says, "They really keep you busy, but it is a rewarding experience!"

—CBC—

NOTICE: Cattle Egret data wanted!

For the fourth year, I have been asked to bring the status of the Cattle Egret in the U. S., Canada and West Indies up to date for the year 1957. Any data for the current year will be of great assistance and the appeal is made to CBC members to send in all records regarding the spread of this species. New *breeding* locations would be of special significance, as well as any hitherto unrecorded localities in which this species has recently appeared. Dates, names of observers and any detailed observations connected therewith would be much appreciated.—Alexander Sprunt, Jr., *The Crescent*, Charleston 44, S. C.

The Bird Biographies of John James Audubon. Selected and edited by Alice Ford, Macmillan Co., 60 Fifth Ave., New York 11, N. Y., published March 4, 1957. 304 pages and 12 superlative Audubon paintings in water-color and chalk, reproduced in full color for the first time from the Harvard University Library Collection. \$10.00. 7" x 10".

From the original five volume text to Audubon's great Folio, *The Birds of America*, and the later reissued seven volume Octavo edition, Miss Ford, foremost authority in America on Audubon, has taken 80 of the most interesting and characteristic bird biographies and working with Audubon's journals and memoranda at the same time, has produced a very excellent and laudable result. Most of us have never had access to the delightful texts in the original, describing Audubon's unique observations and adventures as a naturalist and artist over a hundred years ago, in many parts of the continent.

Included in *The Bird Biographies* is an alphabetical list of the birds occurring in the text with their present ranges and a reference, by plate number, to a corresponding painting in Audubon's *Birds of America*. In Audubon's own words, his *Ornithological Biography* was meant to be "a pleasing book as well as an instructive book" and Miss Ford's volume has indeed retained the charm and pleasing nature of the original.

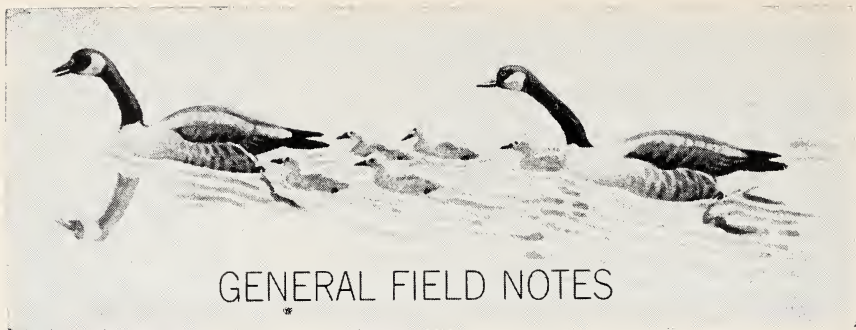
One point of criticism—this reviewer does not see the reason why Miss Ford did not follow the order of the A.O.U. Check List within the Orders and Families. They are listed at random and could so easily have been placed in their proper order throughout the text.

By and large, however, down to the last word in the book, it is charming and refreshing reading. We would like to see a second volume some day and eventually cover the entire *Ornithological Biography*. All ornithologists, and the field is a vast one now, will want to own this handsome volume. —K.C.S.

The Ornithologists' Guide. Philosophical Library, Editor, 15 East 40th St., N. Y. 16, N. Y. 300 pp. \$10.00. This book is an edition of the work of 46 contributors and is a comprehensive guide to bird study in all continents. Techniques and procedures are outlined. Perhaps the most useful feature is that the book lists under Regional Information, the individual students, the literature and institutions for all areas of the continents except the United States and Southern Canada. This indicates that it is the chosen source book for anyone anticipating bird study in overseas lands.—HARRY T. DAVIS

On the Trail on Vanishing Birds. Robert P. Allen, McGraw Hill, New York, N. Y. 252 pp. illustrated with many rare photos. \$4.50. The spark that ignites the spirit to a lifetime of devotion to conservation found ready tinder in Robert Porter Allen, who is now Research Director of the National Audubon Society. He has followed the fortunes of the Whooping Crane (total population less than 30) from the Aransas Refuge in Texas to their nesting grounds in the far north, describes his years of adventures in a manner that tends to excite admiration and envy in those of us who live more or less sedentary lives. Esquimaux, air planes, grizzly bears, cold, log jams, mosquitoes, all are part of the narrative.

Equally exciting are Mr. Allen's descriptions of the life of the Spoonbill colonies in the Florida mangrove keys and of the disappointing search (interrupted by a revolution) for a large Flamingo nesting site in Arba. The spectacular site finally was found—a year afterwards, deserted. A final chapter on the status of all present species and the last reports of those which are now extinct, completes the book.—ROBERT OVERING.



GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. B. Chamberlain, Robert Holmes, Jr., Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions. Typewritten manuscript should be double spaced on letter-size white paper.

Black-crowned Night Heron in Rowan Co., N. C.—At about 5:15 p.m., January 20, 1957, Mrs. Norwood and I along with H. A. Safrit, Miss May Fraley and Jim Carter, all of Salisbury, were engaged in watching some scaup and Redheads on City Lake, Salisbury, N. C. The lake was about three-quarters frozen over although open along the shore; only the day before some domestic ducks had to be broken out of the ice with a canoe paddle by a local sportsman. Jim Carter suddenly pointed to a bird gliding over the lake and asked what it was. I saw that it was a "brownish-streaked" heron as it continued its glide and landed at the end of the lake on the sloping stone dam. Studying the bird through binoculars, we saw that it was an immature Night Heron.

It soon flew about 50 feet and landed on the stone edging that encircles the lake. In typical heron fashion it remained motionless, peering into the water. We approached quite close and noted the general overall appearance to be mostly brown with the brown pronounced on the wing primaries. It was streaked or spotted with white on the back, wings and underside. The bill, which appeared heavy, and the legs, were greenish; the iris brown. During the whole time this bird was observed, about 30 minutes, it never extended its head, always being "hunched up." Finding no food at a particular spot, it would walk on rather rapidly for two or three feet, pause then walk again. Sometimes it flew a short distance to another spot. It was not particularly shy as our little dog, Venus, ran within ten feet of it at times. It made a circle of the lake and, at the time we left, was almost back at the original starting place. The stone edging that encircles the lake is six to eight inches above the water and when the heron would make a strike, it almost lost its balance. Apparently it was successful in obtaining food only twice during the time we were there. Obviously the terrain of this lake was not suited to a wader, and we conjectured that the heavy freezes for the past several days had probably closed most of its normal haunts.

Even though it would be most unusual, we concluded from its general appearance and behavior that it was an immature Black-crowned Night Heron. As the heron flies, Salisbury is 60 miles from the South Carolina state line where it is a statewide permanent resident, more common on the coast, according to *South Carolina Bird Life*. Although no inland winter

dates or localities are given, *Birds of North Carolina* does say it is "... found at some time of the year almost everywhere in the State." Of further interest, from *South Carolina Bird Life*, is the fact that "migrants from the Northern Colonies appear in the Carolinas in winter" and that the immature bird is the one most often seen.—JOSEPH R. NORWOOD, 1329 Greenwood Ave., Charlotte, N. C. (*Birds of America*, T. G. Pearson, ed. 1942 part 1, p. 194-5: IRIS of Black-crown adult, red; young, brown. IRIS of Yellow-crown adult, orange; young, yellow.—*Dept. Ed.*)

European Widgeon at Greenville, S. C.—On Mar. 23, 1957, I observed a European Widgeon (*Marca penelope*) on Furman Lake, near Greenville, S. C. This bird was a male and was so conspicuously "red-headed" that the member of our party who first noticed it pointed it out to me as a Redhead. This duck was seen again at the same place, Mar. 24 and 30.

This seems to be the first record for the interior of the state. Kortright, in his *Ducks, Geese and Swans of N. A.* (1943) points out that most of the inland records for North America are Spring records.

Among the CBC members who observed this bird after its discovery were, Flora Beymer of Spartanburg and E. S. Tillinghast and George Townes of Greenville.—J. B. SHULER, JR., Greenville, S. C.

Golden Eagles Killed in the Carolinas.—Golden Eagles fared badly in the Carolinas during the past winter. South Carolina hunters bagged two. One was brought down in North Carolina. Two immature birds spent some time at a refuge, unharmed.

"On Jan. 21, 1957, a local minister killed a Golden Eagle at the Roanoke and Tar River Gun Club, Bertie County, in eastern North Carolina. Turkeys had been flushed just previous to his sighting the eagle pitch into a pine tree. He thought it was a big hawk and shot"—J. W. E. Joyner. The bird was mounted by a local taxidermist.

"A friend of mine, while turkey hunting, Feb. 2, in Congaree swamp, Richland County, central South Carolina, killed a Golden Eagle. He has been rather disturbed about it. He did not get a clear view of it and shot, thinking it was a turkey."—Gilbert Bristow. The head and a claw of this bird were exhibited at the Columbia Bird Club's February meeting.

"Two immature Golden Eagles spent a couple of months or more at the Bear Island Refuge, Colleton County, southern coastal South Carolina. They were watched, Dec. 9 and Jan. 13, by observers from Charleston. Dates of arrival and departure should be available later."—E. Burnham Chamberlain. (For the second S. C. kill referred to, see the March *Chat*, p. 22—*Dept. Ed.*).

Kittiwake Seen at Oregon Inlet, N. C.—On Feb. 2, 1957 J. E. Ames of Driver, Va., Paul Dulaney of Portsmouth, Va., and I drove to Oregon Inlet and Pea Island, N. C. to observe the bird life. I will quote from the notes I made at that time:

"Weather dull, windy and cold in A.M.—sunny and moderate in P.M. Many geese and ducks on Pea Island. Fine close-up of ducks by peeking over ditch banks. Redheads and Shovelers at close range very beautiful. On return trip a large flock—about 100—Gannets diving madly at Oregon Inlet. Highlight of trip—a small, dark backed gull at Oregon Inlet sitting on shore had us puzzled. It was Laughing Gull size and proved very tame. We were able to approach to within 100 feet and a dark bar on back of neck marked it as a Kittiwake Gull. Identification was confirmed when it flew, by V-shaped dark portion of wings and black bar on end of tail. An immature Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)."

We had 10x50 binoculars and had plenty of time to observe the bird. A few years ago a Kittiwake Gull was found on Broad Bay, near Seashore State Park. It was found by Mrs. Floy Burford's son while on a duck hunting trip. The bird was sick and soon died. Mrs. Burford phoned me to help her identify it. I took my *Birds of Massachusetts* by Forbush which describes birds very minutely in all plumages, and the immature Kittiwake agreed feather for feather. We were thus rather familiar with the bird.

The specimen is now in the Norfolk Museum of Fine Arts, beautifully mounted with wings spread.

I have gone into considerable detail since it is possible that it might be a first record for the State. I am sure it is an unusual one.—FRANK C. RICHARDSON, *Baldwinsville, N. Y., P. O. Box 84.*

Great Black-backed Gull at Charleston Again.—A Great Black-backed Gull spent several days in Charleston Harbor this winter. It was first observed on the Cooper River waterfront on March 15 in company with a number of Ring-billed and Herring Gulls. It was observed again three days later on a sandbank in the Ashley River. It has not been reported since that time.

The Great Black-backed Gull is a rare winter visitor to the coastal regions of South Carolina. The first sighting of record in Charleston Harbor was in December, 1955 (*Chat* 20 (1): 18, 1956). Another sighting was reported in January, 1956.

Identification was positive on each occasion of sighting in Charleston Harbor because in each case the bird was in adult plumage.—A. M. WILCOX, *Charleston, S. C.*

Gray Kingbird in the Interior of South Carolina.—On November 19, 1956, the senior writer, while traveling by car through the Savannah River Plant area, Aiken County, South Carolina, noticed a *Tyrannus*-like flycatcher perched on an electric wire. Shortly, the junior writer, in company with Clyde E. Connell, arrived at the scene in a second car, and soon two pairs of binoculars were trained on what—at very first glance—we thought might be a Western Kingbird. The bird proved, however, to be a Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*). After a minute or so it flew to a low post a few hundred feet away. Following it, we soon were able to watch the bird in bright sunlight at such close range that we could see not only the diagnostic features, notably the large bill, light gray back, white under surface, and lack of white in the tail, but also other details including the pale edgings of the tertiaries and adjacent secondaries. The day was warm and insects were in evidence. During the relatively short period in which we watched the kingbird, its tameness was noteworthy and its domineering manner was exemplified when it landed on a post and perch-displaced an Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*). The writers had observed the Gray Kingbird previously in both Florida and Georgia (note, for instance, Oriole, 4: 30, 1939; 9: 9, 1944), and because of this experience we felt no need to collect the individual under observation.

As recorded by Alexander Sprunt, Jr. (*in Bent's Life Histories of North American Flycatchers*. . . , U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 179: 1942), several instances of fall vagrants of this species have come to light in the eastern United States. One record, based on a specimen taken in Essex County, Massachusetts, on November 22, 1931, and reported by Francis H. Allen and Ludlow Griscom (*Auk*, 49: 87, 88, 1932), may be cited as of particular interest in that (apart from the fact that this bird is an extreme rarity in New England) the time of year is about the same as that of the present record. In South Carolina, the Gray Kingbird is a "rare summer resident, April 19 to September 8, in the coast region" (see Sprunt and Chamberlain's *South Carolina Bird Life*, 1949, p. 348). Its occurrence in mid-November in an interior part of the state was therefore quite unusual and unexpected on both seasonal and regional bases.—EUGENE P. ODUM, *University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.*, and ROBERT A. NORRIS (*University of Georgia Ecological Studies, AEC Savannah River Plant area*), 1918 Hahn Avenue, Aiken, S. C.

Another Baltimore Oriole in South Carolina in Mid-winter.—On January 26, 1957, my wife and I observed for at least ten minutes the activities of an adult male Baltimore Oriole in a hackberry tree (*Celtis laevigata*) in Brookgreen Gardens, S. C. His attention was concentrated principally on the hackberry fruits (botanically, drupes), which he manipulated one after

another in his beak as he progressed from twig to twig. At times he even dangled head downward in order to reach a particular fruit, but in spite of the favorable conditions for observation—good light, proximity, and binoculars—we were never able to evaluate with certainty the significance of his behavior. Probably some of the fruits were eaten whole. Others, however, were clearly visible after his examination; whether he bit off some of the flesh or merely squeezed them as if to test them for quality or flavor, we were unable to decide. Evidently the bird had been in the Gardens for a number of days, since his brilliant plumage had already attracted the notice of some of the gardeners, as well as members of the museum staff.—C. D. BEERS, *Chapel Hill, N. C.*

Western Tanager and More Mid-winter Chats at Lake Mattamuskeet, N. C.—A letter from J. W. E. Joyner dated Feb. 14, 1957, relates his observation on Feb. 13 and 14 of a Western Tanager at Lake Mattamuskeet, Hyde Co., N. C. On the 13th., he was in the company of Miss Eleanor Phillips of Philadelphia. He returned to the site alone on the 14th. His letter, written that night, also reports another mid-winter record for the Yellow-breasted Chat. It follows, in part:

“—while looking for sparrows in the dump, or trash pile, beyond the caretaker's quarters we found this female (tanager), greenish yellow on the back and rather bright yellow below, with a yellow bill. On the shoulder there was a very yellow wing-bar and below this another wing-bar that was lighter—almost white. We watched this bird with glasses as it worked around the area within 50 to 75 feet. Finally it worked over some boxes within less than 25 feet of us and we watched it for several more minutes without needing glasses. We noted particularly the wing-bars. However, we had left our field guides in our cars parked a couple of hundred yards back up the road. We were positive of our identification when we examined plate 36 in Pough's *Audubon Guide*, which shows this difference in coloration of wing-bars (particularly well).

“This morning I returned, after Willie Gray (W. G. Cahoon, Refuge Mgr.) informed me he couldn't collect it on the refuge. Soon I spotted the bird again. It remained in sight the entire 30 minutes I fooled around attempting to take pictures in the hazy light. I probably got something for the record. Incidentally, I took two shots of it when it was close to a Chat in fine plumage that was also feeding among the garbage. Miss Phillips had told me yesterday that she had seen a Chat near the lodge. Whether the Chat I saw this morning was the same one, I can't say.

“Miss Phillips was just starting a several thousand mile tour of refuges that will take her through Florida, Texas and California, somewhat in the path of Peterson and Fisher on their *Wild America* trip.”

Writing on Mar. 21, R. R. Rudolph, Jr., Management Biologist with headquarters at Mattamuskeet, tells us that he was away when the Western Tanager was first reported but that he had seen it on the 18th. of February and almost daily for the following week; that a party including Bob Wolff had seen it on the week-end of Feb. 23-24. It had been present as late as Mar. 8th. Rudolph also saw a Chat, Feb. 18, Mar. 1 and three on March 11.

There is no record of the Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) having been collected in either of the Carolinas. There is a sight record for Waynesville, Haywood Co., N. C., in June, 1944 by Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Templeton, who were familiar with the bird in the West. South Carolina's record is limited to Bulls Island, Charleston Co., Dec. 27, 1954 by G. L. Brody of Chicago (*Chat* 19 (1): 18, 1955). At least two specimens have been taken in Georgia and there are a couple of sight records for Florida. It has also turned up accidentally in Maine and New York in recent years.—*Dept. Ed.*

Spotted Towhee in North Carolina.—On Thursday, Feb. 14, 1957, I trapped a male Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*?) at my feeder at Fayetteville after watching it since the preceding Sunday and believing it to be a

Red-eyed Towhee with albinistic characteristics. I turned the trapped bird over to Henry Rankin for further identification and he arranged to have pictures taken but the bird did not survive the over-night captivity. On Sunday, 16th., I delivered it to Dr. T. L. Quay in Raleigh. He agreed that it was a Spotted Towhee.

While at my feeder, it ate chick scratch as well as a local mixture of bacon grease, grits and hot water. It came to feed alone but fed in company with House and White-throated Sparrows as well as another towhee, a Red-eyed. Neither towhee ever threatened the other at feed.

It appears that this, or another Spotted Towhee, was at the feeder of Miss Dorothy Hutaff. It left her yard about the time it appeared here. She noticed the spotting but gave up the idea of a new bird after consulting a misleading illustration in one of her field guides.

The specimen has been donated to the State Museum where it has been beautifully mounted. It will be sent to Washington for sub-specific identification.—DORIS C. (MRS. ROSCOE, JR.) HAUSER, 302 Green Street, Fayetteville, N. C.

The reply from Washington, dated Mar. 29, states that Dr. Aldrich has placed the specimen with the race *arcticus*, "although showing a tendency toward intergradation with *erythrophthalmus*; the back is darker than that of *arcticus* and so approaches that of *erythrophthalmus*. The amount of white in the tail is variable in all races, but in your specimen it approaches that of *erythrophthalmus* more closely than *arcticus*. It has the spotting on the back and wings of the western races, and therefore in general appearance is more like them than the non-spotted eastern races."

This is the first record of the occurrence of the Spotted Towhee in North Carolina.

* Formerly *maculatus*. The Twenty-ninth Supplement of A. O. U. Check List (Auk, vol. 49, 1954, p. 312) rules *Pipilo maculatus* conspecific with *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*—Dept. Ed.

Evening Grosbeaks Feeding on a Natural Food in the Wild—Observed instances of the Evening Grosbeak feeding on natural foods in the wild during the three recent winter invasions (1951-52, 1954-55, 1955-56) in the mid-southern states are few and scattered. In the winter of 1954-55 about 75 Evening Grosbeaks ate 140 pounds of sunflower seeds at my backyard feeder in west Raleigh, but not once during their five months' stay did I see them eat any of the seeds or fruits available from the many species of evergreen or deciduous trees in the vicinity.

A half-block below my house is a small, woodland stream. In both the past two winters good numbers of the Evening Grosbeaks in the area bathed in this stream at sunup, then flew to their sunflower seed breakfasts. At 7:00 a.m. on the morning of March 13, 1956, I saw 32 Evening Grosbeaks feeding vigorously on the winged seeds of the tulip-tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). The birds were extended over an acre of ground in several different trees and at heights between 35 and 60 feet. The seeds of the tulip tree are borne on upright cones, within open cups withered and hardened in winter. Some of the seeds persist on each cone into the winter and are thus available to birds and other wildlife. The feeding method of the Grosbeaks in this instance was that of perching at the edge of the cup, plucking a seed from the cone, and then proceeding to crack the seed open and eat the meat in the same manner as handling a sunflower seed.—T. L. QUAY, Raleigh, N. C., July 10, 1956.

The Lark Sparrow in the Carolinas.—On the late afternoon of Sept. 4, 1956, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Atwood, of Edisto Beach, Charleston County, S. C., noted an unusual sparrow around their bird feeder. The bird was seen daily through Sept. 7, feeding on the ground, in company with Painted Buntings. It was also seen eating small insects. As they studied the bird, the Atwoods convinced themselves it was a Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*). According to the literature, while four sight records had been

reported for South Carolina, the species had never been collected in that state. Because of this fact, the bird was taken on the afternoon of Sept. 7, under Charleston Museum permit, and added to the collections of that institution, where it bears No. 56.177. On preparation, the specimen proved to be in worn plumage, probably immature, and very fat. Sexual organs were insufficiently developed for accurate sexing. Stomach contents consisted mainly of fine scratch feed (from feeder), a few tiny brown seed, and the wing of a small fly. In order to ascertain whether this bird represented the eastern form *grammacus* or the western *strigatus*, the skin was sent to Washington for subspecific identification. Dr. Herbert Friedman of the U. S. National Museum has identified it as the eastern bird, *C. g. grammacus*.

As far as I can determine the Lark Sparrow has been reported on six occasions in South Carolina. These records follow: one, Oct. 12-15, 1943, on Bulls Island by Eugene Eisenmann, John Bull, Jr., and George Komorowski (*S. C. Bird Life*, p. 536, 1949); one, Dec. 28, 29, 1950 on Bulls Island by Anna Hallock (first day) and Tucker McCravy (second day) (*Audubon Field Notes*, 5:200, 1951, and *Chat* 19 (4):88, 1955); one, Santee Gun Club, Santee River, Aug. 6, 1955, by Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Edwards, Kay Sisson, and Arthur Doyle (*Chat* 19 (4):88, 1955); one, Sept. 20, 1955, on Bulls Island by W. A. Dawn (*Lesser Squawk*, Nat. Hist. Soc. of Charleston, Oct., 1955); one, Sept. 4-7, 1956, on Edisto Beach, by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Atwood (cited in first paragraph above); one, Sept. 30, 1956, on Folly Island, by Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Coleman (*Chat* 21 (1):27-28, 1957). All of these localities are in Charleston County.

The above shows that to date this species has been noted in South Carolina at least six times, ranging seasonally from Aug. 6 to Dec. 29. Five records have come from coastal islands and the sixth from the adjoining mainland. It would appear the species deserves the status of uncommon, perhaps irregular, fall and winter visitor along the Carolina coast.

Thanks to the keenness of Mr. and Mrs. Atwood another species has been removed from the South Carolina Hypothetical List and officially credited to the list of birds of that state. Occurrences of this nature should convince so-called "amateur" bird students of the opportunities and responsibilities of their hobby.

In North Carolina, according to *Birds of North Carolina* (pp. 364-365, 1942) the Lark Sparrow has been taken on three occasions, one in Mitchell County, Aug. 9, 1886, and another at Raleigh, Wake County, Aug. 19, 1889. Apparently these specimens are no longer extant and hence cannot be checked for subspecific identification. Also unavailable is a "deserted nest with four eggs" found July 24, 1890, apparently near Raleigh. Excepting the 1886 record, for which the collector's name is not given, the foregoing records are by H. H. Brimley. Sight records include Raleigh, Oct. 23, 1893 (C. S. Brimley); Cape Hatteras, Dare County, Jan. 20, 1938, nine birds (E. L. Green, Jr.); Pea Island Refuge, Dare County, one, Jan. 13 to March 31, 1939 (Walker). The authors of *Birds of North Carolina* allocated all the foregoing records to the Eastern Lark Sparrow, but according to Harry T. Davis (personal letter), "It seems likely that they merely assumed that we should have only the eastern form and did not try to differentiate on the small differences. Their specimens are no longer available to us and the same assumption probably appears in the case of the nest and eggs." It is to be remarked that the authors of *South Carolina Bird Life* made the same error. The danger of such action is proven by the taking of a Western Lark Sparrow, near Stumpy Point, Dare County, Oct. 25, 1939, by Dr. Alexander Wetmore (*Birds of N. C.*, p. 365, 1942). This was the third Lark Sparrow taken in North Carolina.

Although the N. C. State Museum has no records of occurrence other than those cited above (Davis, personal letter), the following eight observations have been reported since 1942: one, Feb. 26, 1949 (this or

another present until Apr. 16), Wilmington, New Hanover County, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil M. Appleberry and Mrs. Warwick Baker (*Chat* 13 (5):77, 1949); one, Wilmington, Dec. 19, 1950, Mrs. W. C. Mebane and daughter Roxanne (not published ?); one, Mar. 8, 1952, Wilmington, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil M. Appleberry, Mrs. Warwick Baker, and Mrs. Jack Glisson (*Chat* 16 (2):48, 1952); two, Wilmington, Sept. 25, 1953, Mrs. Cecil M. Appleberry and Mrs. Warwick Baker (not published ?); three, Wilmington, Dec. 28, 1953, Mrs. W. C. Mebane (*Audubon Field Notes*, 8 (2):115, 1954); one, Greensboro, Guilford County, July 3, 1954, George Smith (*Chat* 18 (4):105, 1954); five, Wilmington, Dec. 27, 1954, Mrs. W. C. Mebane (*Audubon Field Notes*, 9 (2):128, 1955); one, Wilmington, Feb. 24, 1956, Mrs. W. C. Mebane and Mrs. Warwick Baker (*Audubon Field Notes*, 10 (3):244, 1956).

A check of the two preceding paragraphs shows that to date the Lark Sparrow has been noted fourteen times in North Carolina. Ten of the records are from coastal islands or the adjoining mainland, two from Raleigh, one from Greensboro, and one from the mountain region. Seasonally the records range from Aug. 9 to Apr. 16, with two July dates (from the interior of the state). Except for these July occurrences, the status of this species in North Carolina is quite similar to that in South Carolina: uncommon, if irregular, fall and winter visitor along the coast. In this connection it is of interest to note that in Virginia, Murray (*A Checklist of the Birds of Virginia, 1952*) considers the Lark Sparrow an accidental visitor, and in western Virginia a rare breeder. He lists two breeding records, two birds collected, and three others seen from 1877 to 1950.

The Wilmington group deserves commendation for the major contribution it has made to the history of this sparrow in North Carolina.

My thanks are due Dr. Herbert Friedman, B. R. Chamberlain, Harry T. Davis, and Mrs. C. M. Appleberry for courteous cooperation—E. B. CHAMBERLAIN, *Charleston, S. C. April 4, 1957*.

Coastal Survey and Banding—a correction.—An item in the March '57 *Chat* by Harry T. Davis, correctly calls attention to the omission (on our part) in the preceding issue of his Glossy Ibis nesting record at Starvation Island, July 1956. However, his statement that "This is the northernmost nesting record of this species" overlooks Fowler's Cape May, N. J., breeding records of June and July, 1955, published in the October 1955 *Audubon Field Notes* (9(5):370, 1955)—*Dept. Ed.*

Briefs for the Files.

A **Common Loon** spent much of the summer on Wild Lake on the Cone estate at Blowing Rock, N. C. It was not present after Sept. 1. **Gaston Gage. Cattle Egret**, 5 that stayed around the water front at Southport, left during the last week of October, Waters Thompson. **Green Heron**, 1 perched over a canal one mile east of New Holland, N. C., Feb. 4, R. R. Rudolph, Jr. **Glossy Ibis**, 3, Gallinule Pond, near Southport, N. C., Mar. 16 and 21, Mrs. Appleberry and Theodore Hake; also 2, near lighthouse at Oregon Inlet, N. C., Nov. 21, John P. Alcock. **White Ibis**, 7 imm., Pawley's Island, S. C., Jan. 26, Dr. and Mrs. C. D. Beers; 7 imm. also seen Feb. 20, at Pawley's, Kay Sisson. **Canada Goose**, 10 arrived at Anderson's Pond, Nash County, Nov. 16 and left Jan. 20. J. W. E. Joyner. **Snow Goose**, 1 remained through Dec. 17, only, Savannah Wildlife Refuge, E. O. Mellinger. **Blue Goose**, 10 to 13 present during the winter, last seen Feb. 28, E. O. Mellinger. **Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal**, about 25 each at Gallinule Pond, Southport, N. C., Mar. 16, 21, Mrs. Appleberry and Theodore Hake. **Purple Sandpiper**, 2 at Wilmington, Mar. 21, Mrs. A. and TH. **Ring-billed Gull**, a flight of some forty or fifty along the rain pools on the southeastern edge of Lenoir, N. C., Apr. 4 and 5, Fred May; 2, Feb. 16, 6, Feb. 20 at Lake Murray, Chapin, S. C., Robert Overing. **Wood Pewee**, 1, near Quinby bridge, Berkeley Co.,

S. C., Mar. 20, E. B. Chamberlain. **Purple Martin**, 1 arrived at box, Feb. 26 but did not remain. Eight were present, mostly males, Mar. 26, "at the old house (40 years old)", Charleston, Ellison Williams. **Cedar Waxwing**, abundant Feb. 10-17 and on Mar. 8, after about 10 days of heavy rain, flocks totalling near to 1,000 fed on hackberries, hollies and pyracantha berries near the State Hospital, Columbia, S. C., Gilbert Bristow. **Palm Warbler**, 1 in city yard, Charlotte, Jan. 4 and 15, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Norwood. **Baltimore Oriole**, 1 at Craighill's yard, Rocky Mount, N. C., Oct. 28, did not stay, JWEJ; 1 female, several times daily at feeder, Jan. 4-7, or longer. Winston-Salem, Mrs. H. B. Lofland, Jr.; 3 arrived Jan. 19 and were still present Mar. 23 at Mrs. Charles' feeder at Aynor, S. C.; a pair or more, Dec. 11-Mar. 1, in Mrs. Boegli's yard at Wilmington, where they have been found for years. **Indigo Bunting**, 1 carefully observed at close range 4 mi., out of Rocky Mount by John Thompson, Mar. 20. This is a very early date for Edgecomb County, N. C. **Purple Finches** are noted here because of their absence from the Carolinas. Very few were found and where they wintered has not yet been determined by us. **Vesper Sparrow**, 1, County Farm, Winston-Salem, Nov. 4-11, Dr. and Mrs. T. W. Simpson; move northward through Greenville, S. C., in numbers Mar. 16 and plentiful by Mar. 23, J. B. Shuler, Jr. All dates during winter of '56-'57.—*Dept. Ed.*

Annual Meeting

The twentieth anniversary meeting of the Carolina Bird Club was held at Raleigh, N. C., on March 29 to 31, 1957. The business and paper sessions were held at the N. C. State Museum. On Friday evening John Trott showed his excellent bird and flower slides. Motion pictures of wild flowers were shown by William Craven.

On Saturday, Rhett Chamberlain gave an illustrated talk on "The Safety Factor in a Hanging Nest." Acadian Flycatcher found at Critter Hill, Mecklenburg County, N. C. Jack Dermid, one of America's foremost nature photographers, presented some remarkable slides of bird and animal tracks and signs. John Funderburg discussed "Maritime Breeding Birds of South-eastern North Carolina." He showed the first color slides of the Cattle Egret taken in North Carolina. The bird song test prepared on tape for the Columbia Bird Club by Doug Wade was conducted by Robert Overing. Two CBC experts made a perfect score. A paper on the few remaining natural areas in the Carolinas, titled "In Concern of our Heritage of Wild Nature", written by Doug Wade, was read by Robert Overing.

Harry Davis discussed the history of the Carolina Bird Club, following which the club members enjoyed a conducted tour of the museum.

The banquet was held Saturday evening at the S & W Cafeteria, presided over by Raleigh Bird Club president Miss Mabel Jones and incoming CBC president Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Green. Chancellor Carey Bostian of N. C. State College gave the welcoming address. Laura Reynolds, Audubon Screen Tour lecturer, presented her famous motion picture, "Fun with Birds," at the College Union Ball Room.

Sunday breakfast was furnished at the J. W. Chalfant home on Sussex Road. Dr. James Sprunt delivered a special sermon, "Birds of the Air," at the First Presbyterian Church, in honor of the occasion. ROBERT OVERING.

(Continued from page 37)

rescuing it with his fingers, caused its death." (p. 249). [Rubythroat.]

"The woods have . . . pheasants: the cock bird makes a noise with its wings just like a drum." (p. 252). [Ruffed Grouse.]

William Wyndham Molet.

An Errand to the South in the Summer of 1862. London, 1863.



Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	\$1.00	Contributing	\$25.00
Supporting	\$5.00	Affiliated Club	\$2.00
Life—\$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)			

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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Cover Photograph—Great Horned Owl. By Jack Dermid, N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

This is being written on the glorious Fourth of July—a good day to stay at home and do CBC work! My desk is in front of my study corner windows, outside of which is a feeding shelf. Birds are within three feet of me and thus I work to winged companionship and inspiration.

By now you will have received the News Letter and know it was necessary to switch fall and spring meeting places as we could not get reservations early enough at Cashiers for good birding, though it would have been fine for fall coloring. The Inn has promised us a good May date which Bill Hamnett says will be tops for the spring warbler migration. I added "and mountain flowers." So let's begin now to become more familiar with the warbler tribe, and brush up on plants too! And speaking of warblers, how about your club, or a group of individuals, presenting the new book, *The Warblers of*

North America, edited by Ludlow Griscom and our own Alexander Sprunt, Jr., to your favorite school or town library? This is the first time that the *Parulidae* has been presented as a whole, from Alaska to Argentina and from Newfoundland to the West Indies. See notice on page 65, this issue.

Again I want to emphasize, and what I am urging strongly as a Study Project for the Conservation Department of the N. C. Federation of Women's Clubs—a thorough study of our birds of prey. Another plea, repeated: Let us stress closer ties with all organizations and groups working toward a common goal of conservation, and an understanding and appreciation of all nature—wildlife, plant life, waters and soils. Let's encourage closer ties with our Wildlife Commissions. Do you know their fine magazines and educational releases? N. C. W. Res. Com., Box 2919, Raleigh, N. C. and S. C. W. Res. Com., Box 303, Columbia, S. C., are the addresses of the two Commissions. Educational releases number well over 100 in both states. Let us make use of their materials.

The National Audubon Society publishes an excellent magazine, and fine Bird Leaflets at a very nominal price. And *Nature Magazine* and *Natural History* ought to be in all our schools and libraries as well as in our homes.

By this time the News Letter has carried arguments both for and against the important question of raising yearly dues to \$2.00, actually little enough for all we get from our fine organization. There are good arguments both for and against and some of our oldest, most loyal and hard-working members are on each side. Whichever way it is finally settled, *let us all decide to abide loyally by that decision and work even harder to promote CBC and all it stands for.* We must never forget that we have created something fine over the past 20 years and we want to strengthen it still more in the years ahead.



Photograph by Bernadette Holyte.

CHARLOTTE HILTON GREEN

FLOWER-VISITING BIRDS OTHER THAN HUMMINGBIRDS AND THE FLOWERS VISITED

A. L. PICKENS

From time to time during the past quarter of a century I have published observations on flower-birds and bird-flowers. Trans-Atlantic readers have taken a gratifying interest in these papers, and an Israeli correspondent asks for information on the birds that visit the particular flowers; also a study of beak-lengths in our native hummingbirds has been made at the behest of an Austrian botanist. So nearly equal are these beak-lengths that one would expect no specialization of one flower species for one bird species within the United States, such as we find in the Andean regions. A Carolina hummingbird flower can apparently be pollinated by a California hummingbird and vice versa. Of some five hundred flowers bird-visited, I have only twelve, visited by nineteen about twice as many species of non-trochilid birds. They are here listed, with the other visitors, the numbers referring to the pages in my longer list of bird-flowers where scientific names and families are given:

Silky Oak, California:—Phainopepla; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Bush-Tit; Mockingbird; Yellow Warbler; Arizona Hooded Oriole; Western Tanager; California Linnet (or House Finch). 6. (For scientific names of birds consult A.O.U. Checklist).

Hawthorns, Kentucky:—Cedar Waxwing; Florida Palm Warbler. 7.

Violet Loco, So. California:—Verdin. 9.

Suwarow, Arizona:—White-winged Dove. 10.

Blue Gum, or Eucalyptus, California:—Cedar Waxwing; Audubon Warbler; Bullock's Oriole. 10.

Scarlet Sage, Ohio:—Ruby-crowned Kinglet. 12.

Tree Tobacco, California:—Arizona Hooded Oriole; Scott's Oriole. 13.

Crimson Lousewort, Yuki country in No. California:—Red-shafted Woodpecker. 14.

Trumpet Creeper, Florida:—Orchard Oriole. 15.

Coral Honeysuckle, Florida:—Orchard Oriole. 15.

Century Plant, California:—California Woodpecker; Stellar's Jay; Mocking bird (?); Arizona Hooded Oriole; Scott's Oriole; Western Tanager; Blackheaded Grosbeak. 17.

Giant Agave, California:—Scott's Oriole. 17.

Flower Unknown:—Cardinal and its supposed floral host both need investigation, but a record for a Pine Siskin, yellow with pollen from some unnamed flowering tree in California, came from a creditable collector. The tree I suspect as Silky Oak, the flowers of which are so formed that hummingbirds seem to be foiled although they are seen to lick the tree's foliage where the nectar has spilled from the blooms!

There is perhaps more vandalism than symbiosis in the eating of Scarlet Quince petals by Golden-crowned Sparrows; of Peach petals by Purple Finches; of Plum or Prune blossoms by House Finches and Nuttall Sparrows, and the plucking of Cestrum blooms by House Finches somewhat as children pluck flowers to suck the nectar from the bases.

For a half-dozen additional hummingbird flowers not in my list I am indebted to John K. Terres' interesting *Songbirds in your Garden* and an oral report from Mrs. E. O. Clarkson, Charlotte, N. C. Owing to the recent appearance of the longer list these will count as this year's semi-decadal list of bird-visited flowers.

FABACEAE:—Scarlet Flamboyant *Delonix regia*. Orange red.

VERBENACEAE:—Chaste-Tree *Vitex Angus-castus*. Lilac.

LABIACEAE:—European Pennyroyal *Mentha pulegium*. Lilac.

RUBIACEAE:—Scarlet-Bush *Hamelia erecta*. Orange red.

CAPRIFOLIACEAE:—Beauty-Bush *Kolkwitzia amabilis*. Pinkish.

LILIACEAE:—Common Hyacinth *Hyacinthus orientalis*. White.

Notice the reds and lilacs here. Reds lead in preference by hummingbirds in our flower lists but in artificial flowers there may be a greater number of actual visits to violet of which lilac is a shade. So fond of red is the hummingbird it apparently makes longer primary visits to the red, drains it completely and then dances and plays about the other colors, violet being a favorite. Notes from any observer with red and violet feeders would be appreciated.

Barely marginal for our area are the late A. C. Bent's reports in the *Biographies* of Band-tail Pigeons on flowers and leaf-buds of Toyon or Christmas-Berry (*Heteromocles arbutifoliam*) of the Malaceae, and of the Florida Keys White-crowned Pigeon and Guinea fowls at the scarlet racemes of Clammy Cherry (*Cordia alliodora*) of the Boraginaceae, with Hopping-Dicks (*Merula leucogenys*) and perhaps woodpeckers joining in farther south. However, in addition to the extreme marginal nature of these examples, information is needed as to whether or not symbiotic pollination actually occurs, or is vandalism again to be suspected?

There has been some question as to the original cause of flower-visits by birds, and it has been supposed that visits for insects originally led to the habit. Note the dryer southwest, the humid southeast and the cooler northern areas stand in order in number of non-trochilid birds visiting flowers. Apparently desert-induced thirst and warmth of climate figure.

How many readers have observed flowers being fed from or fed upon by birds other than hummingbirds? What colors of flowers and what species do hummingbirds visit in your area?

It would be fine if we could compare such a list from the humid Carolinas with one from arid Arizona and New Mexico.—Charlotte, N. C., August, 1956.

[I remember one summer watching a parent Mockingbird feed its young the white and crimson blooms of the Feijoa (*F. sellowiana*), commonly called Pineapple-guava. This was in the garden of Mrs. J. Rhett Clark, Sr. on Preston Street, Columbia, S. C.—Ed.]

SAFETY FACTOR IN A HANGING NEST

(ACADIAN FLYCATCHER)

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN

SYNOPSIS

In 1953 the writer investigated the load-displacement relationship in the nest of a Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) and determined a Safety Factor for the structure. The present paper reports a similar study of the nest of an Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax vireescens*). Both species build pensile nests. The former uses an abundance of material; the nest of the latter is so wanting in material as to appear inadequate. Results of the present investigation remove any question of inadequacy.

MATERIAL

The nest under study was collected June 2, 1956, near Matthews, Mecklenburg County, N. C., from a small beech tree on the bank of a narrow stream. On May 20 it contained three eggs. They were destroyed by a predator, May 24 or 25. A broken egg on the ground on May 25 was less than half developed. The nest appeared to be typical of those found in the upper Piedmont section of North Carolina.¹ It was a rather shallow cup—or “hammock”²—supported between parallel twigs some 6 cm. apart, extending horizontally from a pencil sized branch. It was located about five feet from the trunk of the beech and about ten feet above the stream edge. It was made almost entirely of dried plant stems, most of which have been identified by Sarah Nooe of Queen's College faculty.

All of the material was growth from the preceding season and all was available within one hundred yards of the site.³ The binder was caterpillar silk. It could hardly be detected except at the points of attachment to the twigs, which amounted to about 60% of the perimeter. Two or three large grass panicles dangled veil-like under the nest on silk threads and caught in the web were a few buds of Hornbeam (*Carpinus*). The whole structure was so thin and so sparingly woven that the eggs could be seen through it from below. Except for the streamers, the longest piece of material in the nest measured 23 cm. Stripped from the supporting twigs, the overall weight of the nest was only 2.3 gm.

There was no lining material distinct from the bulk of the nest; most of the inner grasses were slightly finer than the others. Only a few of the stems exceeded one millimeter in diameter and the smaller ones were threadlike. The coarse fibers appeared to be bits of Honeysuckle (*Lonicera*), wiry tips of Beech and a few small tendrils of Smilax. Together, these coarser fibers constituted 65% of the total nest weight. The finer material was grasses of two genera: *Eragrostis* and *Panicum*. They were woven throughout the nest and used sparingly as lining. There was 11% of these

¹ Toward the east and south, as the beech growth reduces, *M. vireescens* changes both tree and material selection for its nest. On the coast, Spanish moss is often used (Sprunt and Chamberlain, 1949).

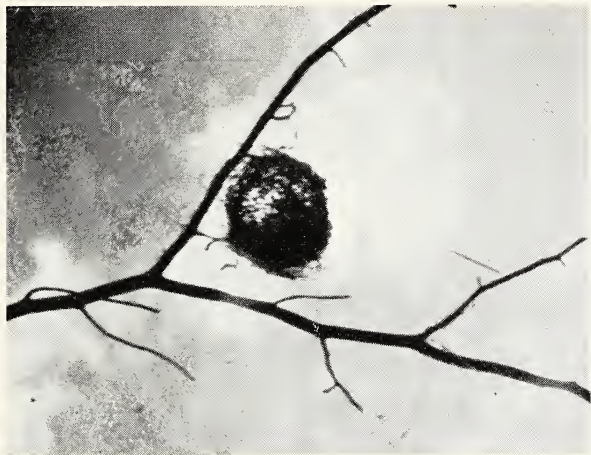
² “Hammock” emphasizes the characteristic support at opposite sides rather than in a fork. (Christy *et al*).

³ A nest described by Maurice Brooks contained grasses apparently carried from open fields more than a quarter of a mile away.

two grasses. The remaining 24%, or half-gram, of the material was unidentified scraps and silk.

METHOD

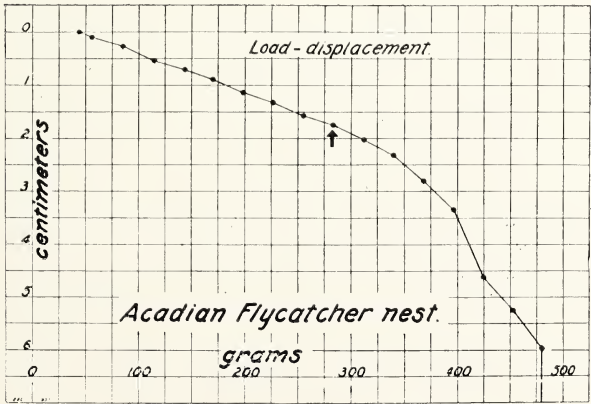
The branch supporting the nest was collected, stripped of leaves and photographed from below against a clear sky. The limb from which the



twigs projected was firmly fixed in a wooden rig. The small parallel twigs between which the nest was hung were so frail and supple that they gave readily under loading. They were therefore left unsupported.

Test loading was applied by gradually pouring known weights of dry sand into a paper tube standing in a small plaster of Paris cup moulded to fit the interior of the nest. Displacement was measured at the top edge of the tube. The complete loading rig weighed 42 gm.

Since so little material was used across the bottom of the nest, the tensile strength of the principal fibers assumes importance. Values were obtained by clamping one end of the sample in a small wooden vise suspended from spring scales and pulling the other end of the sample between thumb and finger until it failed.



RESULTS

As indicated in the graph, measurable displacement began with a total load of 45 gm. and continued in a reasonably straight line, or direct relationship, until a load of 280 gm. and a corresponding displacement of 1.75 cm. was reached. From this point to 480 gm. the displacement rate tripled. At 300 gm. the first minor tearing was detected. At 480 gm. and 6 cm. displacement, total failure occurred.

In the tension tests, several of the coarse samples parted under direct pull at about 600 gm. For comparison, ten samples of new No. 50 commercial white cotton thread failed under this test at an average pull of 790 gm.

Tests of the individual fibers in simulated catenary suspension was not attempted but tests approximating this condition with the commercial thread gave results in the order 1400 gm., indicating that the strength of the coarse fibers far exceeded the possibility of anchoring them.

CONCLUSIONS

The extreme point of safe load is taken as 280 gm. since no damage was indicated up to and including that point. The maximum static load to which the nest might have been subjected is taken as the weight of one adult and three grown young⁴. The average of the weights of eight Acadian Flycatchers taken during summer months and furnished me by Chandler Robbins and Robert Norris (MS) is 13.1 gm. On this basis, 53 gm. is taken as a fair maximum static load.

In the study of the Yellow-throated Vireo nest, maximum live loading due to a sudden up-sweep of the supporting limb in a gust of wind was taken as double the static load. That nest was in a relatively exposed location, well out from the trunk of the tree. In the present case, the site was low, wooded and well protected from the wind. Here, a more realistic live load factor would be 1.5, and the resulting live load approximately 80 gm. On this premise, the Safety Factor is 280/80, or 3.5.

Another interesting comparison with the Yellow-throated Vireo's nest is found in the fact that the vireo family weighs only 7.5 times as much as the nest that supports it. The flycatcher's family, light as it is, weighs 22.6 times the weight of the nest.

As for Safety Factors, the vireo attained a figure of 7.5 through the lavish use of materials. Neglecting the questionable need for insulation and allowing for the weight differences in the birds, the flycatcher attained a safe nest with one-third by weight of the material in the vireo's nest and, in this respect at least, must be judged the better structural engineer. —Matthews, N. C., March 8, 1957.

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[This paper was presented at the Annual Meeting of CBC on March 30, 1957 at Raleigh, N. C.—Ed.]

⁴ Although a brood may rarely consist of four, the present nest would not have contained more than the usual three.

THE 1957 SPRING COUNT

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN

The 1957 Spring Count in the Carolinas was disappointing and, in some localities, baffling. Only eight counts were reported. Last year there were eleven.

To some extent the weather was a factor—as far as the observers were concerned, at least. The first week end of May was vile. Saturday, the 4th, began with a cold steady drizzle—in the low 40s. Three of the eight counts were made that Saturday and two of them had but a fraction of the usual observers. At least one that was planned never got under way.

Only New London counted more individuals than last year—and with the same number of observers. It is a fair assumption that more people will see more birds but the appearance of 3000 Goldfinches can upset assumptions.

A comparison of this year's returns with the '56 count at Greensboro, New London and Wilmington, may be helpful. They alone found over 3000 birds each. Their counts were taken Apr. 27, 19, and 27, respectively.

1. *Observers*—Last spring Greensboro turned out with 34 observers. Less than half of these (16) went out this year. They were joined by 8 who were not in last year's team. New London had the highest percentage of last season's observers—14 of the total of 19 were on hand again. Many are students, however. At Wilmington, there were but 17—a small team for Wilmington and only 9 of those worked last spring also.

All of which points out the fact that population shifts are not confined to the birds. They can be a major factor in the results of a census.

2. *Birds*—The following comparison of the species whose count of individuals exceeded 200 in both the 1956 and 1957 tallies is interesting. Again, Greensboro, New London and Wilmington are compared.

Greensboro

1956		1957	
Robin	216	Swift	240
Starling	316	Wood Thrush	211
Myrtle Warbler	414	Myrtle Warbler	340
House Sparrow	289	Red-wing	574
Red-wing	262	Goldfinch	214
Cardinal	300	Towhee	202
Goldfinch	3055		
Chipping Sparrow	218	Total, all species	5908
White-th. Sparrow	213		
Total, all species	9128		

New London

1956		1957	
Purple Martin	482	Purple Martin	407
Red-wing	254	Goldfinch	246
Goldfinch	200		
Total, all species	2712	Total, all species	3208

Wilmington

1956		1957	
Herring Gull	400	Ring-billed Gull	302
Ring-billed Gull	750	Swift	205
Tree Swallow	2500	House Sparrow	200 est.
Red-wing	240	Red-wing	260
Total, all species	6782	Total, all species	5891

The Chat

57

From a casual inspection of the figures it seems that Greensboro, with about 70% of last year's number of observers, counted 65% of the number of birds found last year. We might conclude that that is to be expected. But if we pull out the surplus of Goldfinches, the overall totals of the two years are not far apart. As for New London, no species was found in large numbers but there was an overall increase. At Wilmington, if we discard the surplus Tree Swallows—there were but 91 reported this year—we find that this year's count is 35% above last year's and Wilmington had fewer people in the field this year. All of which shows that casual inspection of census figures can be misleading.

The counts follow. No particularly rare birds were reported. A few uncommon ones are noted in the counts.

Chapel Hill, N. C. (7½ mile radius, center at Bell Tower, including town of Chapel Hill and University Campus, Carboro, Chapel Hill Airport, Eastwood and University Lakes, Glen Lennox Lake, Park Area and Hope Creek Swamp, Finley Golf Course; mixed deciduous woodlands, 25% open fields, farmland 30%, pond, lake shores 25%, pine woods 5% wooded residential areas 15%.)—May 5; 4:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; temp. 40° to 67°; Wind N., 0-14 M.P.H.; Mist over water at dawn, clear and sunny rest of the day. 25 Observers in 12 parties; total party-hours 63¼ (12 by car, 51¼ on foot); Total party miles 154¾ (121 by car, 33¾ on foot.) Great Blue Heron, 1; Green Heron, 2; Baldpate, 14; Vulture Turkey, 16; Black Vulture, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Red-shouldered Hawk, 6; Broad-winged Hawk, 1; Osprey, 2; Pigeon Hawk, 2; Bob-white, 19; Turkey, 2; Killdeer, 10; Spotted Sandpiper, 8; Solitary Sandpiper, 3; Mourning Dove, 77; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1; Barred Owl, 3; Whip-poor-will, 4; Chimney Swift, 83; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 10; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 11; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied, 11; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 16; Eastern Kingbird, 34; Great-crested Flycatcher, 9; Phoebe, 34; Wood Pewee, 17; Tree Swallow, 5; Bank Swallow, 13; Rough-winged Swallow, 11; Barn Swallow, 5; Cliff Swallow, 2; Purple Martin, 23; Blue Jay, 44; Crow, 104; Carolina Chickadee, 33; Tufted Titmouse, 44; White-breasted Nuthatch, 14; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 9; House Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 50; (Long-billed) Marsh Wren, 12; Mockingbird, 53; Catbird, 36; Brown Thrasher, 37; Robin, 77; Wood Thrush, 70; Hermit Thrush, 1; Olive-backed Thrush, 2; Veery, 1; Bluebird, 86; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 16; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Cedar Waxwing, 50; Loggerhead Shrike, 9; Starling, 41; White-eyed Vireo, 6; Yellow-throated Vireo, 9; Blue-headed Vireo, 2; Red-eyed, 31; **Warbling Vireo**, 1; Black and White Warbler, 3; Prothonotary Warbler, 4; Worm-eating Warbler, 1; Parula Warbler, 5; Yellow Warbler, 1; Magnolia Warbler, 1; Cape May Warbler, 2; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 4; Myrtle Warbler, 28; Black-throated Green Warbler, 1; Yellow-throated Warbler, 15; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 1; Black-poll Warbler, 3; Pine Warbler, 14; Prairie Warbler, 23; Oven-bird, 16; Louisiana Water-Thrush, 4; Kentucky Warbler, 5; Yellow-throat, 8; Yellow-breasted Chat, 26; Hooded Warbler, 14; Canada Warbler, 1; Redstart, 11; House Sparrow, 53; Meadowlark, 27; Red-wing, 33; Orchard Oriole, 2; **Baltimore Oriole**, 1; Purple Grackle, 1; Cowbird, 2; Scarlet Tanager, 16; Summer Tanager, 18; Cardinal, 132; **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, 5; Blue Grosbeak, 10; Indigo Bunting, 55; Goldfinch, 55; Towhee (Red-eyed), 15; Savannah Sparrow, 3; Grasshopper Sparrow, 3; Henslow's Sparrow, 1; Chipping Sparrow, 89; Field Sparrow, 30; White-throated Sparrow, 18; Song Sparrow, 3. Total: 111 Species; about 2,058 individuals.

John Trott (Compiler), Walter Barnard, Roy Brown, Wiley Sanders, Mrs. Fred Weedon, Mr. & Mrs. Gerald MacCarthy, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Kaighn, Miss Frances L. Yocum, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sharpe, Mr. & Mrs. Edminster, Mrs. Adelaide Walters, Miss Stella Lyons, Bill Roe, Oliver Orr, Mrs. Bess Kenfield, Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Blake, Burt Hollifield, Richard Donnan, Roy L. Ingram.

Charlotte (same area as previous counts) May 4. Early morning rain and temperature in the low 40s all but broke up the Charlotte count. Two observers, the J. R. Norwoods, after a late start, completed the day with a list of 61 species and 727 individuals. Mrs. Wm. G. Cobey, Jack Hamilton and Rhett Chamberlain were in the field for a short time in the morning. Two Spotted Sandpipers, 5 Solitary Sandpipers and 4 Olive-backed Thrushes on the Norwood list are noteworthy. A Yellow Warbler, not previously seen this season should be recorded (JH & BRC). Five Red-headed Woodpeckers in one of the city parks was very unusual (WGC).

Eastover. S. C.—(area same as in Christmas counts). May 7; clear, dry; light wind; temp. 45° to 80°. Two observers in one party. (Other data not given). Green Heron, 1; Blue Goose, 1; Wood Duck, 1; Ring-necked Duck, 5; Black Vulture, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Bob-white, 2; Killdeer, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 3; Solitary Sandpiper, 1; Mourning Dove, 11; Horned Owl, 1; Chuck-wills-widow, 1; Nighthawk, 1; Chimney Swift, 2; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 2; Flicker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Eastern Kingbird, 47; Great-crested Flycatcher, 5; Wood Pewee, 1; Barn Swallow, 1; Blue Jay, 19; Am. Crow, 7; Carolina Chickadee, 2; Tufted Titmouse, 5; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 4; Carolina Wren, 6; Mockingbird, 15; Catbird, 7; Brown Thrasher, 8; Wood Thrush, 2; Bluebird, 23; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 2; Loggerhead Shrike, 4; Starling, 6; White-eyed Vireo, 2; Yellow-throated Vireo, 2; Red-eyed Vireo, 5; Black and White Warbler, 1; Parula, 1; Pine, 6; Prairie, 1; Yellowthroat, 3; Yellow-breasted Chat, 2; Hooded Warbler, 2; Am. Redstart, 1; House Sparrow, 28; Bobolink, about 700; Meadowlark, 11; Red-wing, 10; Orchard Oriole, 8; Purple Grackle, 5; Summer Tanager, 1; Cardinal, 9; Blue Grosbeak, 4; Indigo Bunting, 1 male; Towhee, 2; Chipping Sparrow, 5; Field Sparrow, 3; White-throat, 2. Totals: 63 species; 1020 individuals. Mrs. W. M. Faver (compiler), Mrs. Clyde Sisson.

Greensboro. (Area approximately same as in previous years—centering ½ mi. SW of WBIG Radio Transmitter) Apr. 27. 2:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; clear—few clouds in p.m.; 56°-86°; winds, S to W, 3-15 mph. Twenty-four observers in eleven parties. Total party hours, 98 (82 on foot, 16 by car); total party-miles, 287 (50 on foot, 237 by car). Common Loon, 2; Great Blue Heron, 4; Little Blue Heron, 1; Green Heron, 6; Blue-winged Teal, 14; Wood Duck, 6; Lesser Scaup, 3; Ruddy Duck, 1; Turkey Vulture, 37; Black Vulture, 6; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 4; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Broad-winged Hawk, 3; Bob-white, 12; King Rail, 1; Am. Coot, 4; Killdeer, 16; Wilson's Snipe, 2; Spotted Sandpiper, 8; Solitary Sandpiper, 4; Greater Yellow-legs, 1; Lesser Yellow-legs, 2; Herring Gull, 1; Bonaparte's Gull, 1; Mourning Dove, 173; Barn Owl, 1; Screech Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 5; Whippoorwill, 56; Nighthawk, 11; Chimney Swift, 240; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 4; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 56; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 27; Red-headed Woodpecker, 11; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 23; Eastern Kingbird, 66; Great-crested Flycatcher, 15; Phoebe, 62; Acadian Flycatcher, 10; Wood Pewee, 26; Horned Lark, 2; Tree Swallow, 6; Bank Swallow, 2; Rough-winged Swallow, 16; Barn Swallow, 8; Cliff Swallow, 6; Purple Martin, 46; Blue Jay, 103; Am. Crow, 108; Carolina Chickadee, 66; Tufted Titmouse, 97; White-breasted Nuthatch, 12; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 13; House Wren, 27; Carolina Wren, 83; Mockingbird, 162; Catbird, 42; Brown Thrasher, 66; Am. Robin, 152; Wood Thrush, 211; Olive-backed Thrush, 8; Veery, 3; Bluebird, 140; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 69; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 4; Cedar Waxwing, 123; Loggerhead Shrike, 28; Starling, 199; White-eyed Vireo, 34; Yellow-throated Vireo, 28; Blue-headed Vireo, 9; Red-eyed Vireo, 112; Black-and-White Warbler, 12; Prothonotary Warbler, 2; Worm-eating Warbler, 1; Parula Warbler, 17; Yellow Warbler, 30; Magnolia Warbler, 4; Cape May Warbler, 16; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 3; Myrtle Warbler, 340; Black-throated Green Warbler, 3; Cerulean Warbler, 1; Blackburnian

Warbler, 1; Yellow-throated Warbler, 28; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 1; Black-poll Warbler, 2; Pine Warbler, 48; Prairie Warbler, 65; Palm Warbler, 1; Ovenbird, 37; Louisiana Water Thrush, 5; Kentucky Warbler, 1; Common Yellow-throat, 44; Yellow-breasted Chat, 35; Hooded Warbler, 38; Redstart, 48; House Sparrow, 186; Bobolink, 5; Eastern Meadowlark, 153; Red-winged Blackbird, 574; Orchard Oriole, 11; Purple Grackle, 14; Brown-headed Cowbird, 3; Scarlet Tanager, 20; Summer Tanager, 41; Cardinal, 193; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 4; Blue Grosbeak, 10; Indigo Bunting, 40; Goldfinch, 214; Red-eyed Towhee, 202; Savannah Sparrow, 22; Grasshopper Sparrow, 114; Pinewoods Sparrow, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 2; Chipping Sparrow, 188; Field Sparrow, 76; White-crowned Sparrow, 8; White-throated Sparrow, 102; Swamp Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 36. Totals: 128 species; approximately 5,908 individuals. Participants: Mrs. W. F. Smyre, Mrs. Robt. E. McCoy, Inez Coldwell, Dr. Charlotte Dawley, Ida Mitchell, Thomas E. Street, Larry A. Crawford, Jr., Etta Schiffman, Evelyn Cole, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Perrett, Mrs. R. D. Douglas, Dr. and Mrs. A. D. Shaftesbury, Betty Wise, Alma Dykstra, Geo. A. Smith (compiler), James R. Mattocks. Mrs. Edith L. Settan, Mrs. Chas. M. Swart, Mrs. R. H. Weisner, Dr. and Mrs. Carlos Reed, Mrs. W. C. Carr.

Henderson, N. C. (Areas as in Christmas counts) May 4. 6:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; cold, slight drizzle, clearing in p.m. Temp. 45°-60°. Ten observers. Turkey Vulture, 17; Black Vulture, 10; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Bob-white, 16; Killdeer, 10; Spotted Sandpiper, 1; Mourning Dove, 48; Whip-poor-will, 1; Chimney Swift, 28; Hummingbird, 4; Belted Kingfisher, 4; Flicker, 7; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Red-headed Woodpecker, 4; Downy, 4; Eastern Kingbird, 9; Great-crested Flycatcher, 3; Phoebe, 16; Acadian Flycatcher, 10; Rough-winged Swallow, 4; Blue Jay, 28; Crow, 12; Carolina Chickadee, 8; Tufted Titmouse, 7; House Wren, 5; Carolina Wren, 22; Mockingbird, 36; Catbird, 10; Brown Thrasher, 21; Robin, 35; Wood Thrush, 12; Bluebird, 32; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 12; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 3; Shrike, 19; Starling, 53; White-eyed Vireo, 12; Red-eyed Vireo, 15; Black and White Warbler, 4; Parula, 10; Black-throated Blue, 3; Myrtle, 4; Yellow-throated, 10; Pine, 14; Prairie, 14; Ovenbird, 12; La. Water-Thrush, 4; Kentucky Warbler, 4; Yellow-throat, 8; Yellow-breasted Chat, 6; Hooded Warbler, 8; Redstart, 9; House Sparrow, 38; Bobolink, 120; Meadowlark, 49; Red-wing, 12; Orchard Oriole, 5; Purple Grackle, 3; Cowbird, 4; Summer Tanager, 4; Cardinal, 50; Blue Grosbeak, 2; Indigo Bunting, 6; Goldfinch, 11; Towhee, 27; Savannah Sparrow, 8; Grasshopper Sparrow, 10; Chipping Sparrow, 24; Field Sparrow, 34; White-throat, 20. Totals: 72 species; 1082 individuals. (On May 5: Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Barn Swallow, 2; Wood Pewee, 2; Yellow Warbler, 2; Black-poll, 2; Magnolia, 1). Mesdames Charlotte H. Green, J. L. McLaurin, George Potter, Robert McCoy, A. W. Bachman and Misses Stephanie Moore, Garnette Myers, Annie Gray Burroughs, Elizabeth Fox and Mariel Gary (compiler).

Lenoir, N. C. (Same area as in Christmas counts). May 11. Cloudy. Seventy-five species were noted but no record of individuals was made. Most of the transients had moved on. Cape May Warblers, Black-polls and White-crowned Sparrows were still present. Participants: Mrs. J. B. Bernard, Miss Isabel Bernhardt, Miss Margaret Harper, F. Hoyer, E. Hughes, Joe Ingram, Mrs. Fred May.

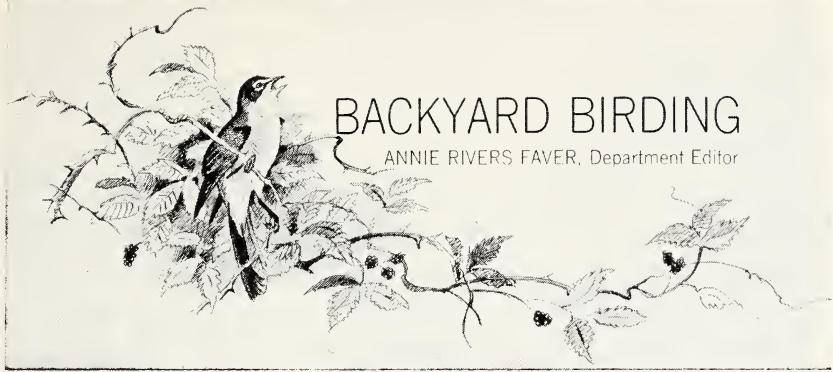
New London, N. C. (7½ mile radius, center 2 miles northwest of Badin, including High Rock Dam, Yadkin River, Badin Lake, Morrow Mountain State Park, Albemarle City Reservoir, Albemarle, Badin, Richfield, and New London; mixed deciduous woodland 25%, open fields and farmland 27%, pond and lake shores 25%, lakes and rivers 15%, marsh 3%, pine woods 2%, town suburbs 3%.)—April 19; 3 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; temp. 60° to 79°; wind SW, 10 M.P.H.; overcast with intermittent showers all day until 3 p.m. when it cleared, heavy mist at dawn, 19 observers in 6 parties;

Total party-hours 36½ (22 by car, 14½ by foot, 1 by boat); Total party-miles 316.3 (248.3 by car, 68 by foot, 5 by boat). Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Little Blue Heron, 2; Green Heron, 3; Black-crowned Night Heron, 1; American Bittern, 3; Baldpate, 8; Blue-winged Teal, 2; Turkey Vulture, 27; Black Vulture, 9; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Osprey, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Bob-white, 5; Kildeer, 23; Woodcock, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 4; Herring Gull, 4; Ring-billed Gull, 29; Mourning Dove, 70; Barn Owl, 1; Screech Owl, 2; Barred Owl, 5; Whip-poor-will, 7; Chimney Swift, 23; Hummingbird, 4; Belted Kingfisher, 15; Flicker, 19; Pileated Woodpecker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 11; Red-headed Woodpecker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Eastern Kingbird, 19; Phoebe, 44; Acadian Flycatcher, 1; Wood Pewee, 4; Tree Swallow, 38; Bank Swallow, 4; Rough-winged Swallow, 19; Purple Martin, 407; Blue Jay, 51; Crow, 59; Carolina Chickadee, 28; Tufted Titmouse, 56; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 2; Carolina Wren, 69; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 7; Mockingbird, 56; Catbird, 1; Brown Thrasher, 40; Robin, 60; Wood Thrush, 34; Hermit Thrush, 3; Bluebird, 93; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 65; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 10; Cedar Waxwing, 185; Loggerhead Shrike, 16; Starling, 55; White-eyed Vireo, 34; Yellow-throated Vireo, 6; Blue-headed Vireo, 1; Red-eyed Vireo, 60; Black and White Warbler, 19; Prothonotary, 14; Worm-eating, 1; Parula, 13; Black-throated Blue, 1; Myrtle, 31; Black-throated Green, 10; Yellow-throated, 47; Pine, 41; Prairie, 32; Ovenbird, 1; Louisiana Water-thrush, 9; Kentucky Warbler, 5; Yellow-throat, 23; Yellow-breasted Chat, 2; Hooded Warbler, 22; Redstart, 21; House Sparrow, 150; Meadowlark, 81; Red-winged Blackbird, 80; Rusty Blackbird, 34; Purple Grackle, 17; Summer Tanager, 6; Cardinal, 143; Goldfinch, 246; Towhee, 14; Savannah Sparrow, 7; Grasshopper Sparrow, 13; Vesper Sparrow, 3; Junco, 21; Chipping Sparrow, 125; Field Sparrow, 57; White-crowned Sparrow, 2; White-throated Sparrow, 131; Swamp Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 8. Total 101 species; about 3,208 individuals. Mr. Joe Norwood, Mrs. J. U. Whitlock, Mr. J. U. Whitlock, Anne Whitlock, Mrs. L. A. Price, Mr. M. M. Haithecock, John Trott (compiler), Steve Starling, Susan Greene, Barbara Hatley, Tommy Morris, Donald Maner, Dwight Morgan, Ervin Poplin, Gail Mahathey, Jane Turner, Douglas Miller, Wayne Smith, Michel Wilder, Notes: American Bittern seen on two days previous to count at Albemarle City Lake by Mrs. J. U. Whitlock and Dwight Morgan, the Black-crowned Night Heron was also seen by these two observers on two previous dates. Seen day after count: Orchard Oriole, White-crowned Sparrow.

Raleigh, N. C. (Area same as for Christmas count), May 4, 1957: Dawn to dusk; cool 50°-55°; cloudy, and intermittent rain in a.m. partly cloudy in p.m. Four observers in 3 parties—Common Loon, 1; Pied-billed Grebe, 3; Green Heron, 1; Turkey Vulture, 1; Black Vulture, 1; Bob-white, 10; Killdeer, 16; Spotted Sandpiper, 2; Solitary Sandpiper, 1; Greater Yellowlegs, 1; Lesser Yellowlegs, 1; Mourning Dove, 56; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1; Night-hawk, 1; Chimney Swift, 65; Kingfisher, 3; Flicker, 26; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 8; Red-headed Woodpecker, 10; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Eastern Kingbird, 12; Great-crested Flycatcher, 6; Phoebe, 3; Tree Swallow, 25; Rough-winged Swallow, 30; Barn Swallow, 12; Purple Martin, 6; Blue Jay, 56; Crow, 15; Carolina Chickadee, 15; Tufted Titmouse, 23; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 4; House Wren, 4; Winter Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 23; Mockingbird, 38; Catbird, 6; Brown Thrasher, 10; Robin, 34; Wood Thrush, 22; Hermit Thrush, 2; Olive-backed Thrush, 2; Veery, 2; Bluebird, 18; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 2; Cedar Waxwing, 16; Loggerhead Shrike, 8; Starling, 345; White-eyed Vireo, 3; Yellow-throated Vireo, 2; Blue-headed Vireo, 3; Red-eyed Vireo, 12; Black & White Warbler, 2; Parula, 2; Yellow, 3; Magnolia, 3; Cape May, 1; Myrtle, 17; Black-throated Blue, 3; Yellow-throated, 2; Pine, 2; Prairie, 4; Ovenbird, 3; Louisiana Waterthrush, 1; Yellowthroat, 4; Chat, 3; Hooded Warbler, 4; Redstart, 2; House Sparrow, 189; Bobolink, 100; Meadowlark,

235; Redwing, 145; Orchard Oriole, 4; Purple Grackle, 1; Cowbird, 10; Summer Tanager, 4; Cardinal, 56; Blue Grosbeak, 2; Indigo Bunting, 5; Goldfinch, 34; Towhee, 19; Savannah Sparrow, 3; Grasshopper Sparrow, 12; Chipping Sparrow, 18; Field Sparrow, 34; White-throat Sparrow, 59; Swamp Sparrow, 5. Total 89 species. Individuals 1967. J. F. Greene, J. W. Johnson, Ethel Wray, D. L. Wray (compiler).

Wilmington. (Same area as in Christmas count). Apr. 27, 6:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., wind S. 10 mph, peaks to 17 mph; Temp. 59°-86°; precipitation, none. Seventeen observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours, 104 (55 on foot, 49 by car); total party-miles, 468 (79 on foot, 389 by car). Common Loon, 15; Brown Pelican, 2; Gannet, 1 (Comeau); D. C. Cormorant, 19; Anhinga, 4; Great Blue Heron, 21; Common Egret, 32; Snowy Egret, 17; Tri-colored Heron, 8; Little Blue Heron, 7; Green Heron, 19; Black-cr. Night Heron, 1; Yellow-cr. Night Heron, 1; Am. Bittern, 1; Least Bittern, 2; Wood Duck, 3; Red-breasted Merganser, 3; Turkey Vulture, 13; Black Vulture, 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 4; Osprey, 18; Bob-white, 71; King Rail, 3; Clapper Rail, 7; Virginia Rail, 6; Sora Rail, 5; Fla. Gallinule, 2; Coot, 10; Oystercatcher, 14; Ringed Plover, 6; Thick-billed Plover, 2; Killdeer, 12; Black-bellied Plover, 19; Wilson's Snipe, 1; Hudsonian Curlew, 27; Solitary Sandpiper, 1; Willet, 44; Greater Yellowlegs, 12; Lesser Yellowlegs, 5; Least Sandpiper, 10; Dunlin, 111; Dowitcher, 2; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 2; Sanderling, 5; Herring Gull, 165; Ring-billed Gull, 302; Laughing Gull, 13; Gull-billed Tern, 5; Forster's Tern, 11; Common Tern, 8; Least Tern, 114; Royal Tern, 8; Caspian Tern, 3; Black Skimmer, 61; Mourning Dove, 83; Ground Dove, 1 (Mebane & Vander Schalie); Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 5; Screech Owl, 1; Chuck-will's-widow, 17; Nighthawk, 10; Swift, 205; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 4; Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 26; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 30; Red-headed Woodpecker, 34; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Red-cockaded Woodpecker, 5; Eastern Kingbird, 27; Great-crested Flycatcher, 154; Acadian Flycatcher, 27; Wood Pewee, 17; Tree Swallow, 91; Rough-winged Swallow, 6; Barn Swallow, 185; Purple Martin, 128; Blue Jay, 138; Common Crow, 58; Fish Crow, 49; Carolina Chickadee, 45; Tufted Titmouse, 121; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 76; House Wren, 4; Carolina Wren, 114; (Long-billed) Marsh Wren, 7; Mockingbird, 123; Catbird, 19; Brown Thrasher, 90; Robin, 4; Wood Thrush, 68; Olive-backed Thrush, 1 (Mebane & Vander Schalie); Bluebird, 32; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 47; Cedar Waxwing, 131; Shrike, 11; Starling, 218; White-eyed Vireo, 66; Yellow-throated Vireo, 25; Blue Headed Vireo, 1 (Baker); Red-eyed Vireo, 116; Black and White Warbler, 3; Prothonotary, 76; Swainson's, 1 (Urich, Earle); Parula, 141; Yellow, 1; Myrtle, 42; Black-throated Green, 3; Yellow-throated, 80; Black-poll, 2 (Irvine); Pine, 54; Prairie, 75; Kentucky, 7; Yellow-throat, 28; Yellow-breasted Chat, 8; Hooded Warbler, 41; House Sparrow, 200 est.; Meadow-lark, 36; Red-wing, 260; Orchard Oriole, 90; Baltimore Oriole, 2 (Barnhill-Gammel-Massey-Grist); Boat-tailed Grackle, 106; Purple Grackle, 75; Summer Tanager, 42; Cardinal, 196; Blue Grosbeak, 6; Indigo Bunting, 31; Painted Bunting, 46; Goldfinch, 11; Towhee, 70; Savannah Sparrow, 21; Seaside Sparrow, 1; Vesper Sparrow, 3; Bachman's Sparrow, 16; Chipping Sparrow, 37; Field Sparrow, 10; White-throat, 173; Swamp Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 2. Totals: Species, 142; individuals, 5891. Edna Appleberry (compiler), Cecil Appleberry, Mary Baker, Barney Barnhill, Clifford Comeau, Dot Earle, Walter Grist, Andrew Gammel, John Irvine, Jr., Bill James, Harry Latimer, Jr., Polly Mebane, Gregg Massey, Els Messenger, Steve Messenger, Mary Urich, Marie Vander Schalie. (Wilmington Natural Science Club).



BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAVER, Department Editor

A letter from B. R. Chamberlain, Matthews, N. C., gives us a very unusual experience in backyard birding!

Dear Editor:

I have a sight record that I trust will be acceptable in your department. I have observed a male Pine Warbler in good light at 18 inches through 1.25 bifocals. In fact, it may still be seen almost daily at about 5:30 p.m., at Critter Hill, perched on my hand or on a spoon, and lately on a grip meter that I hold. This has been going on for over a month now. It began on Feb. 18, '57, when I drove home from work.

As I opened the car door this warbler flew directly to me and hovered at easy slapping distance before me. It was doubtless one of the regulars that we have at the feeders at the other side of the house every morning but I had never had one come so close to me before.

Recovering partly from my amazement, I assumed that it was after food and I hastened across the yard to the house with the bird just behind me. I dug a teaspoonful of "glob" from the can in the refrigerator and went into the yard holding it well above my head. The bird promptly perched upon the handle of the spoon and began eating ravenously. I lowered the spoon to chest level for bifocal vision and looked over my catch (I later realized that it was questionable as to who had caught whom). At eighteen inches, the most striking feature to me was the hair-like appearance of the gray-green feathers on the upper back. And the streaks on the side of his breast were dull and artificial looking, as if drawn on with a charcoal stick. The tiny alula at his "shoulder" had the tiniest dirty white tip. His bright eyes were black beads in the afternoon light. Then he was gone.

The next afternoon he was back. And the next and the next. Now it is routine. He seldom comes to the car but he is on hand—literally—when I come out with the food. His plumage seems a bit brighter. The tip of the little alula and of the upper primary coverts are showing a trace of yellow. He grasped the spoon handle, or my finger, so firmly that I wondered at the "strength of his paw" and promptly set about measuring it.

I made a simple gadget simulating a split branch and hinged it along the upper edge with a strip of Band-aid. A hair spring keeps the halves apart and a featherweight vane measures the separation on a simple scale. Frequent calibration against a Western Electric gram gauge permits the conversion. When leaning forward to take food, this Pine Warbler has a grip of 7 to 8 grams and when balanced and relaxed, 3 to 4 grams, or 1.7 on the grip meter scale as shown in the accompanying photograph. This picture, and several others, was taken by attaching the grip meter to a 20 inch stick with the camera mounted at the other end. I held the camera

Pine Warbler
on
grip meter
at
Crittter Hill

• • •

Photo
by
B. R. Chamberlain.



in my left hand and released the shutter with the left forefinger. My right hand held a square of white cardboard several inches behind the bird for a clear background. A 2X portrait lens was on the camera—an Argus, C-3.

Taking further advantage of the unexplained behavior of this warbler, I placed the grip meter on my 3-bar balance (tripod mounted) and weighed him at will. Average results: 14.2 gm. Food consumed at a perching: 0.5 gm.

The foregoing was written during the third week of March. A few days later a second Pine Warbler, another male, unable to endure the routine food handout without participating, came to me. No. 2 was not the trusting bird I knew No. 1 to be. This one usually perched sideways and kept both eyes on the camera. I finally got his grip, weight and photograph, however. He was a trifle stronger and heavier than No. 1. He had a "sassy" air about him and I suspect that he didn't rate my food too high. I could readily separate the two by behavior. Fortunately though, No. 2 was a marked bird. Two or three feathers on the left side of his mid-crown were twisted and pale yellow in color. I assume that he had been pecked in his youth and knowing him intimately I'm sure he deserved it. At his second visit he took charge and repeatedly drove No. 1 out of sight. In fact, the last I saw of either of them, No. 2 was inches behind No. 1 in wild flight over our house. That was on the afternoon of Apr. 1. The nesting season was upon them and my lavish handout suddenly became a minor attraction. But I enjoyed the six weeks of pre-mortem examinations.

—CBC—

Omission in General Field Notes item in March, 1957 issue:

Fall Records of Golden and Upland Plovers at Pea Island.—A second paragraph was inadvertently dropped from Paul Sykes' report under this caption in our March issue, p. 23. It follows: On the Pea Island Refuge we saw an Upland Plover within about 30 feet. The bird was flushed from the grass growing along the road and circled overhead for a short time giving its whistle and then settled down again some distance away. (The date, Sept. 15, 1956).—*Dept. Ed.*

BOOKS

John and William Bartram's America. Edited by Helen Gere Cruickshank, The Devin-Adair Company, 23 East 26th Street, New York 10, N. Y. \$5.00.

This book, fourth in the American Naturalist Series, will certainly not disappoint the nature loving public. It is edited by Helen G. Cruickshank, wife of the ornithologist Allan Cruickshank, and an author in her own right.

The authentic illustrations are done by Francis Lee Jacques whose black and white drawings are considered by many naturalists to be without equal. The foreword is interestingly written by Bartram B. Cadbury, ornithologist and naturalist, and a direct descendant of the early American Bartrams.

The work of John Bartram (our first great American naturalist) and his son William spanned part of the colonial period and the early years of the United States as an independent country.

Helen Cruickshank has selected from the writings of these two men the most interesting and informative excerpts that portray the grandeur of the wilderness areas of this country.

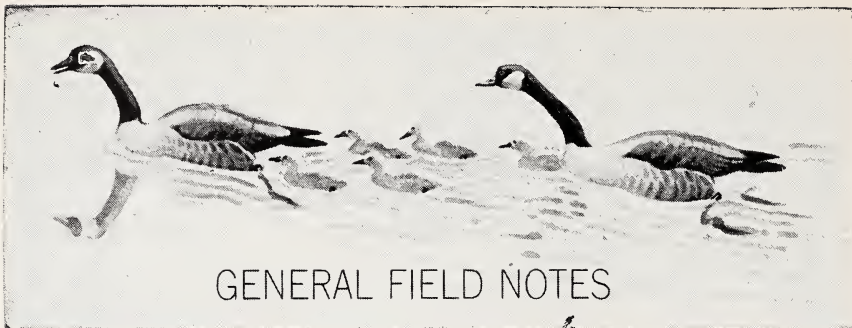
During the period of their travels and writings, they sent 320 species of plants found in this country to England. William Bartram was an artist as well as a naturalist, and many of his sketches of plants, and flowers, etc. are now valued treasures in English museums. The Bartrams corresponded with European naturalists Dr. John Fothergill, Carl Von Linneaus, Peter Kalm, and others, describing plants and wildlife found in this great wilderness.

Accounts of the travels of these two gentlemen indicate that they let neither danger nor difficulty hinder or confine their quest for knowledge about plant and animal life in this new country. Hazards, extreme hardships and discomforts were overshadowed by their courage and determination which undoubtedly stemmed from their indefatigable love of nature.

The Bartrams traveled several thousand miles through the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida. William's book, *Travels Through North and South Carolina*, is said to be the first "genuinely artistic interpretation" of the people and character of this part of the country. The editor selects passages from the records of these trips southward which tell of the discoveries of many new plants and trees. For example: an account is given of the finding of the *Franklinia Alatomaha*, a beautiful shrub or small tree, which has never been found in the wild since 1790. This plant was named for Benjamin Franklin, who was a friend of the Bartrams.

Descriptions of the cypress forests, Spanish moss, Carolina Paroquets, Wild Turkeys, alligators, snakes, fish, insects, spiders, water birds, soil, streams, etc., seem to indicate that the Bartrams were true naturalists. After reading the book, one will likely find himself secretly wishing he could have shared the beauty of the wild America with these pioneers in the field of natural history.—THEO P. HARTIN

The Warblers of North America. Edited by Ludlow Griscom and Alexander Sprunt, Jr. Devin-Adair Co., 23 East 26th St., New York 10, N. Y. Pre-publication price of \$10.00 is offered through the month of August, after which time the price becomes \$15.00. *The Warblers* is illustrated with 33 color plates by John Henry Dick plus black and white drawings, breeding range maps and various tables. Twenty additional outstanding ornithologists are contributors to this first volume of all 90 species of warblers found in the Western Hemisphere. The December *Chat* will carry a complete review.—Ed.



GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. B. Chamberlain, Robert Holmes, Jr., Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions. Typewritten manuscript should be double spaced on letter-size white paper.

Random Occurrences of the Cattle Egret.—In addition to the known nesting colonies of Cattle Egrets at Charleston and Southport and the probable nesting in the Santee River delta, the following reports of the appearance of individual birds have been received this spring:

On Saturday, Apr. 6, at about 4:30 p.m., while driving along the road from Cape Hatteras lighthouse, Dare Co., N. C., we observed a white heron on the edge of the pool on the east side of the road. As we drew up it flew off, displaying a pinkish head crest, and immediately returned to the ditch on the other side of the road. We were able to approach to within about 25 yards, and at this distance we were able to see, with our 7x35 and 7x50 glasses, the buff-pink patches on the front of the neck, upper breast and back; the very pale, slightly pinkish legs, and the pale orange pink bill, that confirmed it to be a Cattle Egret.

There were no cattle present, and no other herons were seen in the vicinity. It was not possible to see on what it was feeding, but despite frequent passing cars it returned to the spot again and again, though on one occasion it flew out of sight for a few minutes. It was obviously much disturbed by the cars, frequently craning its neck and looking around, but our stationary car did not appear to worry it.—REBECCA S. GLASS and STANLEY R. J. WOODELL. *State College, Raleigh, N. C., Apr. 10, 1957.*

On Apr. 10, from 1:15 to 1:40 p.m., a Cattle Egret was present at Coburg Dairy, just south of Charleston. It was watched at distances between 50 and 150 ft., through 8x glasses by E. Burnham Chamberlain and Mrs. Chamberlain and the Robert Colemans. "Orange-red beak and upper legs—some paler" were noted.

On Mar. 29, John A. Gustafson, Associate Professor of Science at State Teachers College, N. Y., with a group of students, watched a Cattle Egret in a small pasture along the road near Washington, Beaufort Co., N. C. The bird was standing near two cows and was observed for several minutes. The party was returning from a field trip in the Cape Hatteras area.

In a letter to T. L. Quay, Apr. 24, '57, W. Verde Watson, Park Naturalist at Hatteras National Seashore Park, gave these details of his observation of two birds he saw that must have been Cattle Egrets: "About the size of Snowy Egret; mostly white, but with reddish buff patch on top of head, on breast and back; a few longer plume-like feathers hanging from breast

and suggestion of similar feathers at back of head; legs apparently mostly grayish with feet somewhat darker; beak yellow, but not quite as light as Snowy and perhaps a bit heavier; feeding on insects on ground and in air within reach using odd head and neck gyrations to catch them. I observed these two birds between the road and the north Pea Island pond yesterday morning (Apr. 23) at about 7:15. They were along with several honkers and even less concerned about my presence than the geese. Conditions were not good for pictures but I did make several color exposures with 135 mm and 400 mm lens.—They flew up if I tried to cross the fence but would only go as far as the brush at the far edge of the field and then work their way outward again as they stalked a hatch of insects."

Two fall appearances were reported to Dr. Quay by Royston R. Rudolph, Management Biologist with F. & W. Service: One bird about 1 mile east of Lake Landing, Hyde County, N. C., Oct. 18, '56; studied at 30 feet with 7x50 glasses, and 3 birds seen in a pasture adjoining his yard at New Holland (also Hyde Co.) during most of the day of Nov. 1, '56. Mr. Rudolph included in his report the observation of six egrets 6 miles each of New Holland during mid-October by Orville Ballance and believed to be Cattle Egrets. They remained at that location for "about one week."—*Dept. Ed.*

Extensive Nesting of the Glossy Ibis in South Carolina.—Until 1957 only two nesting sites for the Glossy Ibis in South Carolina had been recorded, these being Blake's Reserve, So. Santee River and Drum Island in Charleston Harbor, (*S. C. Birdlife*, P. 99, 1949 and *Chat*, 20: (4) 79, 1956) respectively. In both of these cases very small numbers of nests were involved, actually only one in each case being positively identified though birds present numbered as many as a dozen.

1957 has brought to light some surprising increase. On May 15, 1957, a pair of Glossy Ibis was seen amid a large nesting concentration of egrets, herons and White Ibis in Blake's Reserve, Santee, by Messrs. John Henry Dick, E. A. Williams and the writer. No nest was found but the presence of the pair strongly indicated that it was there. On May 26, 1957 the writer accompanied Mr. Philip Staats to the Drum Island rookery site in Charleston Harbor. About a dozen Glossies were present and one nest with eggs (4) examined. There may well have been a half dozen nests.

On June 5, 1957 however, the picture changed radically. On a small island in Winyah Bay, Georgetown County, a colony of 75 to 80 pairs were examined, a total of adults running from 150 to 160 birds. There were scores of nests, many of them in Salt-water Myrtle (*Baccharis* sp.) and more in Black Rush (*Juncus* sp.). All stages of breeding were evident, from eggs to young at flight stage. The existence of this remarkable colony was made known to the writer by Mr. Francis L. Shackelford of Greenville, S. C., who when on an Audubon Tour in Florida this spring (April 1957) informed me of it and said that he had known Glossies to be present there for two previous seasons. He later asked me to check on it and offered the use of his cruiser which he docks at Georgetown. Accompanied by my son Sandy, we made the run of some 10 to 12 miles into Winyah Bay with Mr. Shackelford on above date, with above results.

This is by far the largest breeding concentration of Glossy Ibis known to the writer in the southeast outside of Florida. While he has not perhaps, seen all of the very recent literature, he has checked as carefully as possible. The North Carolina breeding records of this species do not run above 15 to 20 pairs at any one locality.

The Winyah rookery is, as far as he can recall, the writer's first experience of seeing ibis and heron nests built in marsh grasses. The tall tops were simply bent over and the frail sticks of the nest placed atop them. Common and Snowy Egrets, Tri-Colors, Little Blues and Black-crowned Night Herons were present in varying numbers. Mr. Shackelford said that on a trip two weeks previously, there were many young Glossies in "pin-feathers" then. On June 5th there were still some eggs and young in

all stages amid the grass and bushes. The birds of this rookery evinced great tameness and gave no indication of having been disturbed either by human predation or very little by natural causes. The "crop" of Glossies from this rookery this season should be considerable.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *The Crescent*, Charleston 44, S. C.

[A letter from Isaac Metcalf, 1316 So. Edgewater Dr., Charleston, S. C., written June 29, 1957 states: "The Natural History Society bird group watched six (Glossies) at close range in Bear Swamp on June 15. Francis and Louise Barrington see them crossing the Stono River east bound, every evening and Mrs. Metcalf and I have seen as many as 22 between seven and eight, always headed east. Our son Ted has had similar experience . . ."—Ed.]

A Garganey Teal, a First for the Western Hemisphere, at Hatteras.—Through the efforts of Thomas L. Quay we have received satisfactory evidence of the presence over a period of several days of a Garganey Teal (*Anas querquedula*) at Hatteras, Dare Co., N. C., Mar. 25, 30 and 31, 1957. The bird was studied, sketched and photographed by competent observers but since it remained on National Park property, permission was not granted to collect it, and in the absence of the specimen it is placed on the State Hypothetical List for North Carolina. To the best of our knowledge it is the first report of a Garganey in the Western Hemisphere. With the concurrence of Chandler Robbins, who has examined the reports, notice of the find has been included in our regional report in *Audubon Field Notes*.

John A. Gustafson, Associate Professor of Science at State Teachers College, Cortland, N. Y., was the first to report the bird. He found it Mar. 25, recognized it as a stranger and made sketches of it. Later in the week he discussed it with the Park Ranger.

The second party to report the Garganey was Daniel Z. Gibson, President of Washington College, Chestertown, Md. He reported for himself and his young son, Daniel, who actually was the first to identify the bird as a male Garganey. It was largely young Daniel's identification that pushed the search for the facts surrounding the reports.

W. Verde Watson, Park Naturalist at Cape Hatteras, has furnished details of observations he made after learning of the find from Mr. Gibson. The several reports follow almost in their entirety. They are addressed to Dr. Quay.

Cortland, N. Y., Apr. 22, '57.—Thanks for your letter of Apr. 8.—The pictures in Peterson's European guide, and in other sources I found at Cornell, check exactly with the bird we saw. There was no doubt in my mind that the male was a Garganey duck (*Anas querquedula*). My own sketches made at the time (we had an excellent view of the bird) check out in every detail with the descriptions given. The female which accompanied him may have been a female Garganey, but since I was unfamiliar with the species I did not notice the presence of the specific identifying characteristics. However, the two birds stayed together constantly, flying in and out of the small, reedy pond in which we first saw them.—(Here are) the circumstances under which we observed it. I was accompanying a group of students from the College on an outing over our spring vacation. We were on our way to Ocracoke, and stayed overnight one night in the woods near the Coast Guard station at Buxton, right behind the Cape Hatteras lighthouse. While several of our party were climbing the lighthouse, another fellow (John Cecil) and I were observing the Coots on a small reedy pond behind the National Seashore Recreation Park Museum. In fact, we were standing on the porch of that building while we scanned the pond with our binoculars. The pond at that point is only 75 feet or so from the porch. We noticed these two ducks, and I knew they were something unusual, but a check through Peterson's *Field Guide* failed to indicate what they were. After five minutes or so they flew out of the pond and we went inside the museum. When we came out several minutes later I noticed the same birds flying back into the pond, and we watched them

for about ten more minutes, until they disappeared into the reeds. It was during this time that I made the sketches I did. It was later in the week that I talked with Mr. Hanks about these birds, and evidently he has talked with you since then. We observed them on March 25—a Monday. The weather was cloudy, with a strong breeze (about 15-20 mph); it had been raining during the night, stopping about 7:00 a.m.—(Sgn) JOHN A. GUSTAFSON.

Chestertown, Md., Apr. 3, '57.—As you suggested in our telephone conversation on last Monday, I am sending you the documentary account of the identification of the Garganey teal at Hatteras Island on Saturday, Mar. 30. The entire credit for this identification, if it is corroborated, goes to my son, Daniel D. Gibson, age 14, who has been a student of birds for ten years and studied them in the field and in books as a single-minded avocation. About a year ago at his insistence I purchased for him a copy of Peterson's birds of Britain and Europe; it was his avid study of this volume that made it possible for him to identify the teal in question. It all occurred as a result of a family motor trip to the Outer Banks, which we had never visited before.

About 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, Mar. 30, we stopped our car beside a freshwater pond located about a quarter-mile from the Buxton ranger station near the Hatteras lighthouse. There was a flock of ducks playing in and out of some rushes about 75-85 yards away. The sun was clear and through the binoculars five or six of the ducks could be easily identified as Blue-winged Teal. Among them was a strange bird, which my son identified as a drake Garganey Teal, a European species never before recorded in the United States. The light was behind us and his field marks were clear: He was about the size of a Blue-winged Teal, perhaps slightly smaller, had a whitish stripe extending from the eye all the way down the side of the head and neck, somewhat similar to the green patch on the drake Green-winged Teal except for the color and for the fact that this stripe was much longer and was whitish. Along the side was a large pale bluish or gray area, very distinctive. The rest of the head and breast appeared to be dark rufous. Both my son and I studied the bird for some time through 7 x 50 binoculars; at that distance through the glasses the markings were utterly clear.

We then drove to the ranger's office and a young assistant ranger returned with us. He watched the duck through his glasses and said he had never seen such a bird before, though he admitted he had never heard of a Garganey Teal. We then returned to the station and conferred with the chief ranger. He was interested, though he had never heard of the duck. He was unwilling to assume responsibility for killing the duck, for which I cannot blame him, but did attempt to talk by radio with Mr. Verde Watson, naturalist at the Chicomicomico Station, but Mr. Watson was not in.

We went back to the pond and I took several pictures of the duck with a Leica fitted with a 135 mm lens. When I attempted to get closer for a better picture, they all flew off towards the ranger station. We drove there again and found them on the pond about 100 yards from the museum. I took several more pictures, though I am by no means sure the results will be sufficiently good for positive identification.—We returned to the ranger station and I successfully reached Mr. Watson by radio—he would attempt to come down the next morning but was not sure he could get away.

The next morning, Sunday, Mar. 31, about 10:00 o'clock, we drove back to the pond from our motel. The Garganey was still there with the other teal in the pond where we had originally seen him. The light angle was too poor for photography. Mr. Watson had not arrived, and we shortly left for our journey home. We stopped at Rhodanthe to see Mr. Watson, only to learn that he had left a short time before to photograph the duck at Buxton. What his results were I do not know, since we did not retrace our course.

One of my son's reactions on identifying the Garganey was that it had been imported and placed on the pond for decorative or experimental

purposes. The ranger disabused us about that. The Garganey also appeared to be somewhat shyer than the other teal, remaining somewhat to itself and entering little into their play—(Sgn) DANIEL Z. GIBSON.

Manteo, N. C., Apr. 4, '57. (This letter relates the radio-telephone conversation with Mr. Gibson and the fact that young Gibson had promptly identified the bird and had stated that it was a native of Europe and Asia. It continues—)

The following day, Sunday, I went to Buxton and in the afternoon the bird finally showed itself and I had a good opportunity to study it with the glasses. The light, however, was poor for picture taking and I did not, I am quite certain, obtain a picture from which identification will be possible. (Here are the field markings:) teal size, long white crescent above eye and down head and upper neck; conspicuous white half-moon shape on side, which appears to blend with same color on lower parts when wings are raised; grayish brown head, neck and tail; white and grayish brown sharply defined alternate stripes curving rearward and down from back.—Subsequent checking of this observation with Mr. Hanks reveals that a Mr. John Gustafson who made the trip with him to Ocracoke had seen this bird but was not able to identify it although he recognized it as an unusual species.—The Gibsons were the second to observe it.—(Sgn) W. VERDE WATSON.

The few discrepancies in these reports seem to be of no consequence. Although neither photographer produced an entirely satisfactory picture, we feel that the record of a Garganey at Hatteras is entirely valid as a sight record. Mr. Watson's description is particularly valuable since it was made without benefit of literature on foreign birds.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews, N. C.*

A Scoter at Rocky Mount, N. C.—John Thompson and I studied a female scoter at City Lake, Rocky Mount, on Jan. 31, 1957. Yesterday I would have sworn it was a Surf Scoter. Today, at some 100 plus yards away in fairly good hazy light, I detected a flicker of white toward the rear of its wings. I approached within 25 yards and studied it intently. In the dimming light I did manage to see the dark beady eye. I cite this to substantiate close observation. Even this close, the bird kept its dark wings so compactly folded high on its back that no white could be seen. Only on a few occasions as I studied it did it relax the wings enough for just a small flicker of white to be seen. I could easily distinguish its grayish-brown body and blackish-brown wings and head. There was a large white patch on either side of its bill, almost forming a complete white bridge across the bill. There was just a trace of white wash behind the eye. It had a habit of stretching its neck upward at a 45° angle, cormorant like, and sometimes opening its bill to expose a purplish mouth lining. Its legs and feet were purplish black. Although I did not at first see the white, it is definitely a White-winged Scoter. Which makes me wonder if those 4 female scoters Gray Temple, Charlie Benbow and I studied at City Lake, Nov. 10, 1948 were really Surf as we reported. Craighill has a record of one White-winged Scoter shot by Butler, Dec. 30, 1938.—J. W. E. (BILL) JOYNER, *Rocky Mount, N. C.* (It appears that the identification could have been easily tied down by forcing this bird to fly.—*Dept. Ed.*).

White-tailed Kite at Wilmington.—The following report has been accepted by the Advisory Council. Two of its members have personally discussed the observation with Mrs. Appleberry. The report is taken from a letter dated Mar. 24, 1957: "On Jan. 3, 1957, Mrs. Cyril K. Bryan of Kimberton, Pa., and I were on Route 87 on the cut-off from Pleasant Oaks (Wilmington area). There are fresh water swamps for several miles in this area. A strong WNW wind had been blowing for some days. We rounded a curve and came upon this bird so suddenly that it continued to hover for several seconds. My first thought was a gull because of the color

and the white tail. Mrs. Bryan saw the black wrist marks and called it a hawk. As the bird flew away it gave short osprey like calls. It flew into the swamp and we did not see it again although we could hear it calling. Neither of us realized, until we began to pool our impressions, that it was a *White-tailed Kite*. Mrs. Bryan had seen the bird in the West but was not expecting to see it here. Our view of it was exactly as illustrated on page 126 of the *Audubon Water Bird Guide*. There is absolutely no doubt in our minds as to the identity of the bird we saw."—EDNA L. APPLEBERRY, *5 Lake Forest Parkway, Wilmington, N. C.* (As pointed out by E. B. Chamberlain, this observation is all the more remarkable in that it was made in mid-winter. For a recent S. C. record, see *Chat*, 17(3): 70, 53—*Dept. Ed.*).

A Carolina Wren Tropism.—This spring a pair of Carolina Wrens built a nest in a carton, half-filled with tools, on top of a cupboard in a recessed back porch at 3 Davie Circle, Chapel Hill, N. C. During the first week of May, workmen were busy, coming and going through the porch, and this proved to be the time for fledging of the young. The day that occurred was a busy and anxious one for both birds and people. I found one of the young ones in the house, and saw three others fly into it. They had choice of going toward the strong, outdoor light or, through open doors, into the comparatively dimly-lit interior, and all took the latter. Thus a tendency (or tropism) to turn toward lesser illumination was manifested, which comports well with the behavior of adult wrens in poking into dark places avoided by most birds.—W. L. MCATEE, *May 27, 1957, Chapel Hill, N. C.*

Briefs for the Files

Common Loon, 1, at Spartanburg, S. C., June 1, Gabriel Cannon; 8 in the Southport, N. C., area, May 17-18, CBC Field Trip. **Gannet**, a few off shore, Southport area, May 17-18, Mrs. Appleberry and party. **Anhinga**, 1, at Spartanburg, May 22, GC. **Cattle Egret**, 2, in breeding plumage, Apr. 29 at the Pea Island Refuge, Mrs. I. C. Hoover (Arlington, Va.). **Little Blue Heron**, 1 adult near Rocky Mount, Mar. 24, J. W. E. Joyner. **Black-crowned Night Heron**, 1 at brickyard at Lenoir, Apr. 7, Mr. and Mrs. Fred May *et al.* **Glossy Ibis**, 3 at Roper, Washington Co., N. C., June 9, John Thompson. **Blue Goose**, 1 immature remained in the Eastover, S. C., area until May 16, Mrs. W. H. Faver. **Blue-winged Teal**, a pair at Gallinule Pond, Southport, May 18, CBC Field Trip. **Am. Golden-eye**, 2 females at Green's pond, Nash Co., Mar. 10; 1 still present, June 1, JWEJ. **Ruddy Duck**, 1 at River Bend Lake, Cabarrus Co., N. C., Apr. 16, Joseph R. Norwood; 1 highly colored male at Ocean Drive Beach, S. C., May 18, B. R. Chamberlain, Fred May and party. **Broad-winged Hawk**, 3 at Wilmington, Mar. 20, Mrs. Appleberry and Theodore Hake (York, Pa.). **Pigeon Hawk**, 1 at North Wilkesboro, Mar. 9, Wendell P. Smith. **Coot**, 1 at Rocky Mount, May 28, JWEJ; 5 were at Ocean Drive Beach, May 18, BRC & FM. **Bonaparte's Gull**, 1 at Greensboro, Apr. 27, Spring Count—T. E. Street. **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers**, 2 at Charlotte, The J. R. Norwoods; 1 at North Wilkesboro, May 10, WPS. **Acadian Flycatcher**, nest with 3 eggs, 12 mi. N. of Lenoir in hemlock, 150 ft. from water, June 1, Fred May. **Trail's Flycatchers**, 3 at North Wilkesboro near water where 1 was taken last summer, May 23, WPS. **Cliff Swallow**, 1 at North Wilkesboro, Apr. 27, WPS. **Olive-backed Thrush**, 1 at Queens College campus, Charlotte, May 15, Sarah Nooe. **Cedar Waxwings**, 100 in single flock, Raleigh, May 23 & 24, H. T. Davis. **Philadelphia Vireo**, 1 at North Wilkesboro, Apr. 25, WPS. **Swainson's Warbler**, 2 near Kitty Hawk, singing, Apr. 30, Mrs. I. C. Hoover. **Indigo Bunting**, 1 male observed on wire at close range, near Rocky Mount, Mar. 20, John Thompson. All dates 1957.—*Dept Ed.*



Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

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Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	\$1.00	Contributing	\$25.00
Supporting	\$5.00	Affiliated Club	\$2.00
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The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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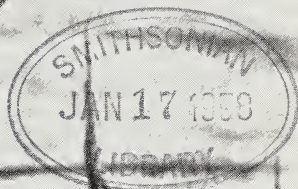
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Cover Photograph.—Clapper Rail, Pritchard's Inlet, Beaufort Co., S. C., by Gordon H. Brown, S. C. Wildlife Resources Dept.

The Chat

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

A beautiful sunny, though cold day, this 8th of October. Let us hope it will continue throughout the weekend and the Poinsett Field Trip. For the past two weekends heavy storms have cheated us out of hoped-for field trips—one while we were at Camp Sequoyah, with Lunette Barber of the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission, and again, last week, when we had gone with some of the State Museum people to Morehead and the meeting of the recently organized N. C. Shell Club. Incidentally, shell enthusiasts have much in common with birders. Anyone interested, write Sec.-Treas. E. M. Walker, Buie's Creek, sending a dollar dues, in time to attend the next meeting at Campbell College, Buie's Creek, Sat., Dec. 7th.

We will have had our Fall meeting at Poinsett before this CHAT is out, and we hope it will have been a good meeting. Let us plan definitely NOW to make the Winter meeting at Mattamaskeet, Jan. 17, 18 & 19, a BIG one in every respect. And how about planning for a water trip, such as we had there once before? Looking ahead to the Spring trip in the mountains, let us plan to ask the Tennessee Ornithological Club to meet with us, as they did in '55 when we met at Fontana. Each group should have much to give the other.

During Fall migration, are any of you checking the areas of ceilometers at airports, and the wires and TV transmitter towers? William Craven, of the Raleigh Bird Club (who gave such a good program at our March Anniversary meeting) has been going out about twice a week to WRAL at Auburn, 20 miles from Raleigh all this fall. On October 1st he took me out (and we plan to go again). The mortality, especially among warblers, has been high. That day we counted several hundred birds, among them many warblers, and several score Catbirds. Some we gathered up to take to the Museum, but most of them were too battered. One of the WRAL Staff has become interested, has bought a Peterson Guide, and is doing some checking himself. That same day, around noon, I was working in my yard and woodland, and a flock of some 50 catbirds came by, remained about a half-hour, and departed. A later checking with Mr. Craven, on another trip out to the TV transmitter towers, again revealed many warblers and many Catbirds, I might point out that the day I was there with him, we found one Brown Thrasher, several thrushes, but not a single Mockingbird, Robin or Bluebird.

In checking over some old *Chats*, I note the high mortality of warblers reported around ceilometer towers and airports, during migration— and around TV transmitter towers. Can anything be done about this? In line with this problem, have you read the article in the Sept.-Oct. Audubon Magazine "Are Warblers Decreasing?" by John V. Dennis?

Again, I should like to see CBC encourage the formation of Junior Audubon Clubs in our schools, and other youth groups.

And I wish we could give *two* Audubon Scholarships, one to each state each year. Miss Gladys Baker, of Zebulon, N. C., who went to the Maine Audubon Camp on this year's scholarship, evidently did some outstanding work there, for I had a fine letter from Carl Buckheister, commending her work. Let's not forget it was through one of these scholarships, our first I believe, that Margaret Wall, Principal of a Greensboro School, is now in charge of Nature Activities at that camp, summers. When Dorothy Treat, who had developed that course, was sent to develop a similar one in a new camp in California, it was our Margaret, of the many hundreds of campers who had attended the Main Camp, who was chosen to fill her place—and has filled it ably, ever since. So, let's consider that second scholarship!

CHARLOTTE HILTON GREEN

TAPE-RECORDING THE AMERICAN WOODCOCK

DOUGLAS E. WADE

Here is a report on some of the findings made during nine tape-recording sessions on two American Woodcock, *Philohela minor* (Gmelin), song and dance grounds near Columbia, South Carolina, February and March, 1957.

I had access to some professional quality tape recording equipment which could be made portable. The song and dance grounds could be reached by car.

It all started when Harry Hampton reported in his column in *The State* (Columbia newspaper), that he had heard and seen some woodcocks on his "Woodlands" estate as early as January 12, 1957. On February 17, I made the first tape on one of the Hampton birds; thirteen other tapes were recorded subsequently during February and March, including March 3, 5, 6, 9 and 10, but no birds were heard or seen after March 2.

One of the sounds made by woodcocks (mostly males) has been called a *peent*. It sounds somewhat like a Bronx cheer. The *peenting* ground activities are associated with courtship. Since there are few records of woodcock nesting in South Carolina, it can be assumed that most peenting in South Carolina is done by migrant birds—birds that will move farther north to complete mating activities. (The earliest record I have on peenting in South Carolina is January 1, 1951, when I heard and saw a woodcock at about 5:30 P.M. near Clemson along Twelve-Mile Creek. The weather was unseasonably warm and there had been several weeks of heavy rains.)

Many observations have been published on songs and dance performances of woodcocks (see appended *Reading List*). However, insofar as I know, results from tapes made on entire evening or morning sessions or a series have not been described in the literature.

SOME NATURAL HISTORY AND TAPE DATA

Woodcocks usually perform on a peenting ground at dusk and dawn. Occasionally at fervor peaks, they are active throughout a moonlight night.

The two grounds worked on the Hampton estate, were in old farm fields reverting to pines, brambles and broomsedge. On each peenting area was a small patch of bare ground which served as a focal point for the bird while peenting. These bare areas were not larger than six feet square. The openings were about 40 x 40 feet.

A few minutes after sunset or an hour before sunrise, the male flies or walks in on a peenting ground. (After a few visits to an area, it is surprising how accurately you can predict arrival.)

Almost immediately on arrival the male starts on a first series of peents, which is likely to run longer than any given later in the session. On nine different days I tape-recorded 52 peenting series, ranging from one to 223 peents, or a grand total of 2,114 and involving a delivery time of 6,978 seconds. The time interval per peent on these series is an average of 3.3 seconds per peent, although this interval was not consistently followed.

Usually a soft, low-register *tookoo* note immediately precedes each peent, or is occasionally given without a following peent. Some observers working

with me could not immediately distinguish the tookoo notes, but after monitoring with earphones or listening to tape playbacks, learned to hear such notes unaided.

Peenting series in each session are interspersed by aerial flights. A spiral upflight (which I estimated at 200 to 350 feet) is characterized by a series of *twittering* sounds, probably coming from the wings. The zig-zag down-flight is accompanied by a series of sharp, throaty chirps, and some *twittering*.

When the light is adequate the bird can be kept in view on the up and down flights and the sounds can be correlated with these flights. Thus on tape one can readily make out when the bird has completed the upflight and has turned to come down.

Toward the end of each flight (unless leaving the area) the male levels off quietly for a landing. On the tapes, or when monitoring in the field with earphones, you can hear the rustle of the wings as the "brakes" are applied and the sound of the bird hitting the ground. After about three seconds of silence another series of peents is started, either with a peent or a tookoo. One could almost assume that it took the Columbia birds about three seconds to get set physically to make a peent or a tookoo note, after a flight or during a peenting series.

This pattern of peenting and flying is repeated until the male leaves the area or stops his song and dance. Total dusk or dawn performance times on two Columbia birds on two different grounds ranged from 15 to 34 minutes.

Among other sounds made by woodcock is a *cackling* which seems to be reserved for those times when another male attempts to invade. I recorded this cackling once when a male coming in for a landing made a flying pass at a microphone. The microphone, on a five foot stand, had been re-positioned on the peenting ground while the bird was in the air.

Analysis of one very fascinating and rare occurrence was made possible by correlation of field observations and study of the tape.

A woodcock had started up on an aerial flight but intercepted a Great Horned Owl which chanced to be winging straight over the peenting ground. The woodcock turned from its usual flight pattern and flew *silently* below the owl, making at least three upward thrusts. My wife and I were whispering quite loudly and excitedly while watching this. Actually we could have talked out loud. On playback of the tape, we could make out plainly our whispered dialogue, and were able to time the entire flight episode, deducting 15 seconds used in *quietly* following the owl. From preceived angles of interception and departure, marked down in the field, we were also able to figure roughly the speed of the woodcock and the owl, which was about 23 mph.

A summary of peenting and aerial flight information obtained from tapes is given in the table. Only those parts of the flight songs and actions that were easily decipherable from the tapes on repeated playback study are listed. For example, on February 17, although eight flights were recorded, it was possible in four flights only to make out clearly the sound of landing. Also, in a number of instances, the bird would *tookoo* rather than *peent*, within the three plus seconds after landing.

Data obtained from this tape-recorded study made on two woodcock



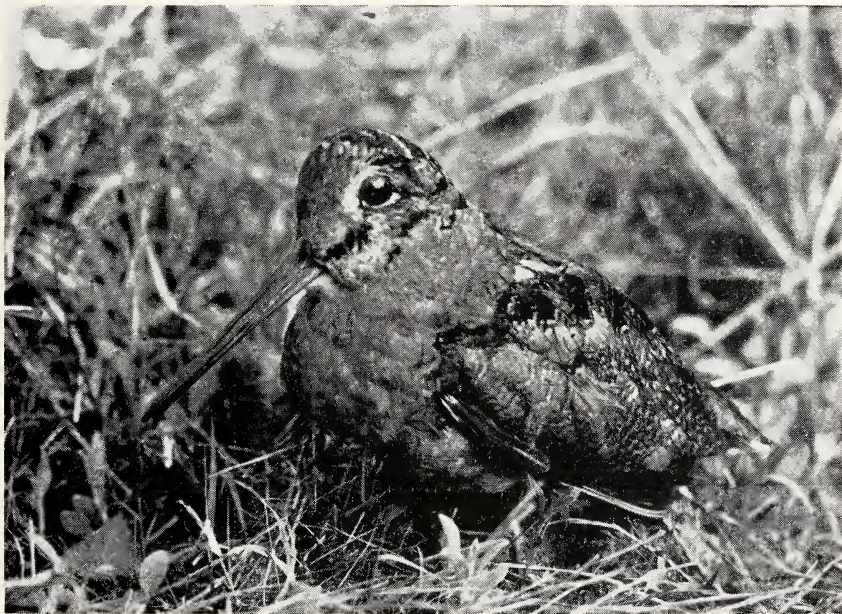
An omni-directional microphone is placed in position on peenting ground No. 1. Bare spot used most frequently by Woodcock is between microphone and deciduous tree.



Author Wade partly hidden behind some small pine trees at the edge of a peenting ground, operates tape recorder and writes down field observations.



Peenting ground No. 2 on the Hampton estate. Small bare area used by Woodcock for peenting is immediately to the fore of the microphone.



Although this is a stuffed bird, it shows well the features of the chunky, brownish-colored woodcock, including the long bill which is used in drilling for earthworms. (Photos by Gordon H. Brown)

SUMMARY OF TAPE-RECORDED DATA

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

(Time, unless otherwise designated, is given in seconds)

DATE (1957)	STARTED (E.S.T.)	PEENTING SERIES	PEENTING RECORDED	PEENTS NO. TIME	UPFLIGHT NO. TIME	DOWNFLIGHT NO. TIME	SCALING IN & LANDING NO. TIME	FIRST PEENT AFTER LANDING NO. TIME				
Feb. 17	6:30 P.M.		7	171	8	370	8	129	4	30	5	11
Feb. 20	6:29 P.M.		6	152	7	307	7	81	5	25	4	10
Feb. 23	6:29 P.M.		5	203	5	245	5	72	3	22	3	9
Feb. 24	6:29 P.M.		12	374	11	517	11	151	8	63	3	11
Feb. 26	6:34 P.M.		7	358	6	286	6	77	3	18	3	6
Feb. 27	6:30 P.M.		1	69		(incomplete data; power failure)						
Feb. 28	6:34 P.M.		5	104	2	108	2	24	2	25	2	5
Mar. 2	6:00 A.M.		6	305	3	142	3	31	1	4	3	26
Mar. 2	6:40 P.M.		3	378		(incomplete data; power failure)						
Mar. 3, 5, 6, 9 and 10	. . . no birds heard or seen.											

Totals	52	2114	6978	42	1975	42	565	26	187	23	78
AVERAGE (Seconds)			3.3		47.0		13.4		7.1		3.3

(Note: all data was checked with a stop watch and counted three times from tapes.)

peenting grounds near Columbia, South Carolina, can be compared with those published. It seems that the tape recorder offers a practical and precise method of obtaining certain information on woodcock. Already parts of the tapes have been used in "educational" programs and on radio and TV. It is quite possible that these tapes can be used to lure woodcocks into a trap (or a position to be easily captured) for purposes of banding and other studies.

In view of increased interest on the part of state and federal wildlife agencies in gathering more factual information on woodcocks throughout the Southeast, a rather extended *Reading List* is offered.—*Columbia, S. C., July, 1957.*

(At the time this article was written Mr. Wade was Education Assistant and Associate Editor of the South Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission at Columbia, S. C.—*Ed.*)

READING LIST

(These items have been carefully selected and present a rich background of findings in recent years.)

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Sprunt, Alexander, Jr. and E. B. Chamberlain. *South Carolina Bird Life*. University of South Carolina Press, Columbia, 1949, pp. 220-221.

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A NOTE ON THE NEW A.O.U. CHECK-LIST

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN

The Fifth Edition of the A.O.U. Check-List appeared this fall. Some comment upon its value to CBC members is in order.

The March 1953 *Chat* carried T. W. Simpson's excellent paper on *The Trend Toward More Meaningful Use of Common Names*. In it, he pointed out the true value of common names and the objective of one common name for each full species in North America. That paper was the basis for the *Check-List of Common Names for Use in the Carolinas*, that appeared in the following issue. As was the expressed intent, this paper was to provide an interim list, awaiting the much delayed Fifth Edition of the A.O.U. Check-List. In that capacity it has served well. The Fourth Edition had appeared in 1931 and we had gone far afield since that time.

A cursory examination of the Fifth Edition with its 691 pages, shows that many of the vernacular names that sounded so strange to us when we began using them in 1953, have been adopted officially. Some have not. But the transition to the new names has been made easier for us.

As with the Fourth Edition, only full species are named in English. There has been some shifting in the taxonomic sequence—confined, apparently, to shearwaters, herons and widgeons.

The new list will be followed in *Audubon Field Notes*. However, the change will not be introduced there until after the 1957 Christmas Count for the rather prosaic reason that the mimeographed forms were prepared months ago from the old list. Since many of our counts are carried in both *Audubon Field Notes* and *The Chat*, it would be folly to depart from our presently used names until this coming spring when the new check-list can be adopted.

While this writer does not feel competent to pass upon the merits of some phases of the A.O.U. Check-List, he can scarcely refrain from expressing disappointment over the absence of numerous records of distribution of birds in our area. Failure to accept sight records by observers unknown to the authors—even when published—is understandable. The error in placing Southport in South Carolina rather than in North Carolina in the case of the Cattle Egret observation is unfortunate but also understandable. Failure to include range extensions based on published records of collected specimens, some of which were submitted to the National Museum for verification (one as long ago as 1952), is not clear.

Assuming that the omission of sight records published by state clubs was justifiable, what credited outlet is offered for distribution records by serious students? In recent years the leading journals have discouraged or even discontinued acceptance of individual distribution records from any source. Where do we turn?

One solution is to continue and intensify our efforts to make the records we offer for publication in *The Chat* and in *Audubon Field Notes* worthy of acceptance anywhere.

As for the new Check-List, the serious student will want to own or have access to a copy. — *Matthews, N. C., Oct. 8, 1957.*



BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAVER, Department Editor

From Rebekah Norwood (Mrs. J. R.), Charlotte, N. C., comes the following interesting item on a first successful rearing of a young bird: On May 14, 1957, we fell heir to an orphan Common Grackle, estimated to be more than a week old. This being a new experience for my husband and me, we thought we could feed him (or her) about a week and then release him. What a surprise we had! It was not until June 15 that we decided that Chisholm (thus we had named him) could fend for himself. During those weeks we had fed him, in various combinations, the following: hard-cooked egg yolk, bread crumbs, corn bread, corn meal, grits, peanut butter, milk, buttermilk, cottage cheese, Dash dog food, lettuce, carrots, beans, nasturtium leaves, grain, fish worms and grub worms. At first I had to put the food in his mouth, using a miniature wooden paddle. During the week of June 2-8, he occasionally took food with his beak without it being pushed down his throat; during his last week of captivity he fed himself exclusively—mainly because I knew he could and therefore declined to put any food in his mouth. I merely held the food out to him or left some in a jar lid for him to help himself. How he did squawk. We even bought cod liver oil for him to prevent any vitamin deficiency due to lack of sunshine.

From the beginning, I would coax him to drink by putting his bill in some water. He even took baths in the shallow water provided for that purpose.

We kept him in a cage in our garage at first and later gave him free run of the garage. By May 20 he was flying short distances. In fact he spent that very night in a treetop to which he had flown and from which I could not retrieve him. The next morning I coaxed him down and caught him. Much of the time he would fly to the rafters of the garage, and with the aid of a stepladder I had to climb after him at feeding time. He gradually connected my arrival with food and learned to fly down when I entered the garage.

The day of his release Chisholm was banded by my husband as proxy for Harry T. Davis, State Museum, Raleigh, North Carolina. The next day we had to coax quite a lot to entice him down to feed him. However, on the third day, he immediately flew down when he heard the back door open and saw me emerge with food. This continued for about a week. Then he gradually began to learn to forage for himself. This was good news for us because we wanted him to be independent of human beings. Now, after almost four weeks of freedom, he seems to have reverted completely to the wild. He does not respond in any way when we "kuk" to him as we did in the days of captivity. We see him occasionally in our yard, the last time being today (July 12) when he both drank water at the birdbath and foraged around in the grass for insects and bugs. He sometimes comes to

our feeding station for grain. He has grown some beautiful new iridescent feathers, on wings and head in particular, but his tail is somewhat ragged.

Since he had to be fed every hour at first, we learned first-hand that one should not take lightly the responsibility of raising a baby bird. (Mrs. Norwood states that she and her husband have had a fine summer conducting bird walks for 11 & 12 year old children at their church camp about 10 miles out of Charlotte.—*Ed.*)

Each fall the large pecan trees behind our home are disfigured by the large nests of the fall webworms. These large bags of hairy worms are found on the *ends* of the branches of these trees, at almost any height. Some are at the level of our back porch, while others are on the topmost branches. These are the caterpillars of the Arctiid moths, of which there are many families, this particular one being listed in Swain's *Insect Guide* as *Hyphantria cunea*. The tent caterpillars found in the spring are always in the *forks* of branches or in the *crotches* of young trees.

Naturally, these congregations of worms attract many birds. When I first started learning about birds, I had gotten the idea that the Yellow-billed Cuckoo was the only bird that would feed on these hairy, fuzzy worms. But through the years, I have seen more and more species come to feed on the caterpillars. I have been interested in noting the manner in which the birds eat the worms, and shall pass on some of the items I had entered in my record books.

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo, being a large bird with a good reach, simply flies to a web, perches on the limb below, and tears a hole in the side of it, proceeds to eat worm after worm until it has enough. Watched closely, the bird would pick up each worm by its head, chew it with his bill until the worm was dead, then with a jerk of his head, would swallow it. If the cuckoo picked up a worm by the wrong end, he would put it on the limb at his feet, and pick it up again, head first! I have another note of a Cuckoo "bumping" these worms on the limb, or in this particular case, the top of a fencepost, until they were in a condition to be swallowed. This was a Black-billed Cuckoo which was seen at our spring on Sept. 6, 1953.

Tufted Titmice will tear small holes in the webs and simply eat worm after worm. The Blue Grosbeaks will feed in the same manner. But the Carolina Wrens were the funniest of all. Since they are so small, they would walk right down into the web through a hole some larger bird had torn, get a worm, and turn around and hop back out. I always expected to see one baby Wren get caught in the web, because to me it looked like it was all over the bird, but it would bring a worm out, "bump" it on the limb at its feet, then swallow it.

On September 15, while on our back porch, I watched a female Baltimore Oriole eating worms out of a web on the pecan tree in the same way the Cuckoos feed. On the Sunday before this, I had first noticed a Black-billed Cuckoo with the several Yellow-billed ones that are always in these trees or the nearby woods.

Worms are crawling all over the trees and the nearby shrubbery, even the back door and the wire on the back porch. The Blue jays eat them off the large limbs and tree trunks. The many Cardinals find them almost anywhere, as do the Mockingbirds and Catbirds. The Red-eyed and White-eyed Vireos, Parula, Redstarts and one Cape May Warbler are usually busy searching the leaves for the small worms. I watched the Cape May Warbler for about a half hour on the afternoon of Sept. 24, as it went round and round the lower branches of the tree right by our back porch, searching the under-side of the leaves.

As we were eating breakfast this morning, our granddaughters noticed a worm swinging by a web right outside the kitchen window. As we were talking about the fuzzy worm, a female Cardinal flew up and captured it in mid-air! You never know what might happen, when you have webworms and birds in your back yard!

KEEPING FIT WITH THE BIRDS

THOMAS T. JONES, M.D.

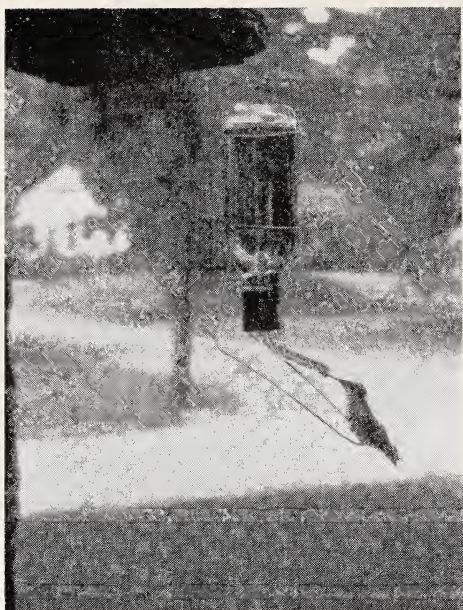
My family is probably in many respects as average as the next one. We are all very busy, each member with his or her special portion of daily labors. My practice makes tremendous demands on my time, keeping me away from home a great deal. But we have a sort of general family interest in birds that has grown into a most rewarding experience for us all. Moments spent daily in our small yard pay big dividends in fun and relaxation, and an occasional day off is "manna from heaven" both for me and the birds.

As I go about in my work, making house calls often affords the privilege, probably common to all general practitioners, of sharing in the hobbies, skills and interests of patients. Such experience is boundless and we see the tremendous value of the therapy of self-taught and self-developed, shared outlets and diversions. These moments have included much about "birding" through the years. In fact, a patient gave me the first feeder we ever used, a commercial one, then came ten-cent books on birds—then better and more comprehensive books for identification and reference, followed by our attempts at making feeders, and experimenting on our own.

Our special interest has been Hummingbirds but it does not stop there by any means as we thoroughly enjoy all other species we've been able to attract to our yard. [See *Chat* 17(4):85-87, 1953]

We worked a long time perfecting just the right kind of feeders for Hummingbirds. At first I used small glass tubes with a pipe-stem cleaner twisted about the top of the tube and just hung over a branch of a tree or shrub. They are simple to make, easy to keep filled and very rewarding. I also tried using bottles of all kinds from a few ounces to quart size, using bent tubing and a rubber stopper with wire twisted to both support the bottle and to suspend it from feeding shelves or limbs of trees. The perch, as you see in the illustration, is a continuation of the wire support. Hospital infusion bottles are ideal because they already have hangers on them. These can be bought from any medical supply house at a nominal cost.

There are eight feeders of various sizes in the front yard now (we have a forty foot frontage) and we usually fill them twice a day. You know the Jones' sugar bill is heavy. But we have twelve to fifteen hummers daily all summer long and we think any price is reasonable. Our formula for syrup is one third sugar to two thirds water and a few drops of red vegetable coloring. We have made and given away sixty feeders this past spring and we hear many varying reports of success by their new owners. One of our friends used green coloring in the sugar solution and the birds investigated it a few days then went to work and fed on it as though it were perfectly proper. Hummers have since been fed from pink, orange and yellow solutions with equal success.



*Ruby-throated Hummingbird
sipping
at a feeder
made from
a hospital infusion bottle.*

Our Hummingbirds know us well and will sip from feeders held in our hands. Their antics are breathlessly fascinating. I can move about and talk with them or whistle the little "chitter" talk as I wait on them, and they always come easily and unafraid, to perch while we hold a feeder. I have had them sip from the bigger filling bottle while I was pouring into the feeders. Unseemly—this sipping from the serving decanter and not waiting until theirs is ready! I think this ease of association is the result of having feeders for the hummers in the yard consistently for the past five years.

Three years ago, I had a test tube feeder up and a Ruby-throat with a broken lower mandible tried to feed by thrusting his head deep into the tube. One morning he was found dead, completely filling the tube, after literally crawling in to get the syrup. We have seen three others with this same injury, whether from fights, or screen window or door encounters, I do not know. My daughter Julia once "pushed" a bill back from a window screen, where the hummer had inadvertently pinned himself. They do meet head-on in mid-air. I have seen them hit the grass stunned, roll over, rock a bit and then take off to new combat.

Recently a Carolina Chickadee had been coming regularly to one of the Hummingbird feeders, which aggravated the hummers considerably. They would "buzz" the interloper fearlessly until it cleared out and now this has become a daily occurrence. We have watched two Ruby-throats at a feeder at the same time and once last summer we had the singular experience of seeing two perched at a feeder sipping, while a third hovered above sipping too at the same "spout".

We can recognize the female hummer of the first generation pair by a "bit o' graying" around the face and head, and an extra tiny white feather back of the left eye. Her complete confidence in coming to "hand" each year

without hesitation and "casing the joint" as it were, makes us certain she's our original. The male hummers we see much less often. Only two mature males with complete encirclement of the scarlet gorget, are in the neighborhood this summer. The female always arrives first at the feeders. The usual arrival dates have been between the fifteenth and twentieth of April. We have often not seen the male until nestlings are in evidence. Hummers have nested next door all the years they have fed with us. The nests have been from seven (lowest) to fifteen feet high off the ground and this summer we believe three successive nestings were accomplished. Most hummers leave early in September. (A recent note from Dr. Jones states that the hummers left this fall by September 5th except the old pair which stayed on and on and he fed them until he was afraid they'd "miss their flight" so he made the last filling the twenty-first, saw them feeding on the twenty-fourth for the latest date.—*Ed.*)

Hummingbirds incidentally, are good insect hunters. It has been our observation that the peak of their "kill" is during the hour before sunset. While feeding, dive-bombing and chittering at each other as they jockey for a place on the rail, they constantly dart upward to snare a gnat or other small flying pest out of the air—a practical reason for attracting birds to our yards and gardens.

Sometimes on my day off Julia and I go out into the country to a place we have access to, to get small Sweet Gum trees for making hanging feeders. And in line with this, I've often thought it would be an excellent idea if bird clubs, nature groups or even individuals kept in close touch with highway departments planning new roads, and builders developing housing areas, in order that young trees, saplings and shrubs could be rescued either to replant in yards, gardens or parks, for attracting birds or on the other

*Hanging feeders
made from
small Sweet Gum trees,
ready for use.*

• • •

Photographs by the author.



nand, providing materials for making feeders. Much is wantonly destroyed that should be preserved or used in some way.

The hanging feeders we make are for Bluebirds, White-breasted and Brown-headed Nuthatches, Cardinals, Titmice, Chickadees and a host of other species most of us find about our door yards. We usually choose a tree about 3" to 3½" thick at the base with many branches, and saw it down. Then we cut off the branches anywhere from four to six inches from the trunk after which we saw the trunk into sections about one to three or four feet long, depending on how long we wish the feeder to be. Back at home, we have a basement workshop where we place these sections of trunk, one by one in a vise and bore holes. One inch (or 16/16) in diameter and one inch deep will work successfully but we have used larger bores. We bore the holes just above each stub of branch as you see in the picture. We groove the base next and then screw to it a perch made from one of the trimmed branches off the tree, any length from an inch to two feet. Late-comers can perch until a stub-branch is free. A simple eye screw at the top of the bole is for a hook made from an ordinary wire coat hanger. Save your Christmas trees for hanging feeders of this type. Cedars are especially adaptable with more branches per "feeder-foot". We have had as many as twelve or more birds on a hanging feeder at the same time. Cardinals, Summer Tanagers and Bluebirds amongst the duller plumaged species make a most colorful picture. The mixture we usually use to stuff the holes is peanutbutter, mixed bird seed, bacon fat, which my neighbors have been helpful supplying, and cornmeal to thicken it. And birds do go for it!

One of my favorite tricks with Hummingbirds is to have a visitor who knows nothing about them, hold a feeder in his hand, lean back against a tree and not make a sound or move, but keep his eyes glued on the perch of the feeder. Seldom has it ever taken over five minutes for a hummer to pay a visit—the look on the human visitor's face is worth a million! I can almost guarantee that a hummer will land on a feeder held in this manner at any time during daylight hours. The best time seems to be in the early evening when there is a regular convention of hummers about, judging from the sound.

Another pastime with Ruby-throats that affords much amusement and pleasure in our family, is attracting them to a tiny tube, 1" x ⅛", filled with the sugar solution and held between the lips. We put out a warning to anyone who tries this maneuver—Hummingbirds are not house-broken and the use of a bib is advised. It is a fascinating experience to see them hover so closely, to feel the stirring breeze of their wings on your face and hear their high-pitched "talk" and "gossip" as they feed.—*August, 1957, Durham, N. C.*

CHRISTMAS COUNT DATES FOR 1957

This year the dates set for the annual Christmas count are **December 21, 1957 through January 1, 1958**. For rules on the count refer to *The Chat*, December, 1955, Volume 19, Number 4, Page 83.

B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C., as in past years, will compile counts for North and South Carolina.



EDITORIAL

News, Reviews, Announcements

Authors, Members, Letters

Items of Interest

We are sorry not to have on hand *The Warblers of North America*, edited by Ludlow Griscom and Alexander Sprunt, Jr. and published by Devin-Adair Co., 23 East 26th St., New York 10, N. Y., in time for review in this issue. Mrs. Faver has promised to review *The Warblers* inasmuch as she has always had a special interest in the family *Compsothlypidae*. We hope we can carry a full review in March of this long anticipated volume.

CBC loses a family membership, South Carolina loses a most valuable Education Assistant in its Wildlife Resources Department and *The Chat* can't figure out how it's going to function without Dot and Doug Wade. Doug has answered a thousand questions, dug up information, untangled snarls for the editors and helped with layout problems, ad infinitum. Maybe he didn't know how heavily he *was* leaned on. Dot dropped anything she was doing from housework to gardening, to plant collecting which was only one of her devoted hobbies, to proofread galleys whenever she was needed.

We thank them both for their enthusiastic help and inspiration. On September 16th Doug took over the editorial duties of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* published by the Soil Conservation Society of America at Des Moines, Iowa. Their home address is 4238 Pleasant Street.

—CBC—

CBC's fall meeting and field trip was held October 11, 12 & 13 at Poinsett State Park, Wedgefield, S. C. Members of the Columbia Bird Club were hosts. Special thanks go to Joe Norwood, Gilbert Bristow, Irvin Brunson, Game Warden of Sumter Co., and Pauline & Marion Dwight, Park Superintendent, for making arrangements and planning field trips.

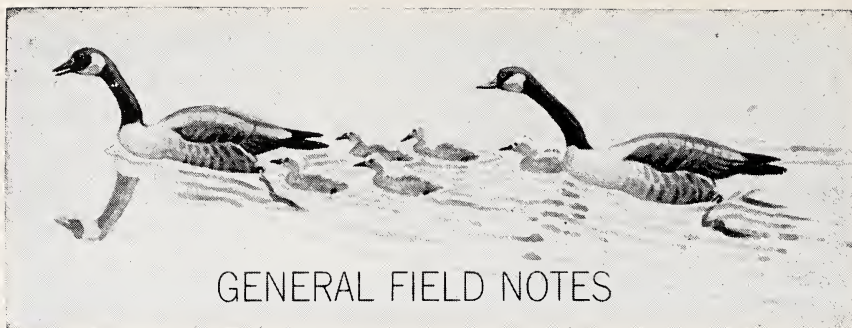
Harold Peters, Flyway Biologist, U. S. Fed. Fish & Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Ga., gave an informal talk Friday evening on the migratory habits of Mourning Doves and the effect of hunting seasons on their population.

Seventy-one species were identified, among them the rarely seen American Bittern, a flock of Nighthawks and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. Only five warbler species were seen.

SEND IN YOUR DUES FOR 1958

to

W. L. Hamnett
2809 Kittrell Dr.
Raleigh, N. C.



GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. B. Chamberlain, Robert Holmes, Jr., Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

We are very glad to present in this issue the reports of two additions to the South Carolina List; Black-headed Grosbeak from the Kingstree area and a Western Grasshopper Sparrow from near Aiken. Both were made possible through unusually keen field observation.

In the March, 1956 issue, mention was made in *Briefs for the Files* of a Magpie in the Rocky Mount area. An escapee caused some excitement there until its owner turned up. It was one of two—or possibly more—imported pets and we have no report of their fate, but we suspect a connection with the following paragraph in a letter from Mrs. I. C. Hoover of Arlington, Va. "Just below Bodie Island Lighthouse, as we were driving towards the ferry, a strange bird flew across the road from the ocean side. We knew it immediately for a *Magpie*, having seen the Yellow-billed type in California. It lit on a dune, then flew to a low bush and perched. We had excellent views of it flying and perching, and identified it as a Common, or American Magpie because of its black bill. Back at home, we were intrigued to find that the European bird is identical. (The date was April 29th)." The new A.O.U. Check-list names it the Black-billed Magpie.

Some Early Nesting Activities at Battery Island (Southport, N. C.).—May 4, 1957. Weather conditions made it impossible to reach Battery Island and the marsh birds were not moving. We checked a number of brackish ponds behind the dunes along the ocean beach between Yaupon Village and Long Beach and counted a total of 35 Glossy Ibis feeding on the flats. Eight Hudsonian Curlews and 19 Greater Yellow-legs were also feeding in this area.—JOHN B. FUNDERBURG and DAVID A. ADAMS.

May 8, 1957. Conditions were ideal on this date and we reached Battery Island with no trouble. Two nests of the Cattle Egret were located, one contained four eggs and the other, one. Four adult Cattle Egrets were seen—none of which were banded. The nests are located in the same area where they were found last year (*Chat* 20(3):57, 1956) and each nest is

marked with a strip of cloth for future reference. A total of 7 Glossy Ibis nests were found, with clutches ranging from 1 to 4 eggs. The ibis nests are much more substantial than the heron nests and are well lined with grasses, making identification easy, even at a distance. Fifteen adult Glossies were counted at one time—representing almost all of the adults present.

Other nests in the colony follow. All species had nests containing from one egg to fledglings: Common Egret, 50+; Snowy Egret, 100+; Little Blue Heron, 60+; Tri-colored Heron, 125+; Black-crowned Night Heron, 10. On the sand lump area at the south end of the island we found these nests: Black Skimmer, 24, 1-4 eggs, no young, 41 adults; Willet, 5 nests each with 4 eggs, 19 adults; Chuck-will's-widow, 1 nest, 3 adults. Nighthawk, 2 nests, 4 adults; Mourning Dove, 3 nests, 14 adults. At the same location, the following non-nesting birds. Oystercatcher, 7 (probably nesting—none found); Dowitcher, 22; Turnstone, 8; Black-bellied Plover, 1; Hudsonian Curlew, 5; Red-breasted Merganser, 3; Bufflehead, 1.—FUNDERBURG and CHARLES E. DEPOE. *N. C. State College, Raleigh, N. C.*

More About the Garganey at Hatteras.—A letter from Mr. and Mrs. John R. Gatewood of Winston-Salem, N. C., dated Sept. 12, tells us of their visit to Cape Hatteras on Thursday, Mar. 21, 1957 and relates their detailed observations on that date of the Garganey, an Old World Species identified there March 25 by Daniel D. Gibson and watched by several others (*Chat* 21(3):68-70). Failing to place the bird among the species known to them, or figured in the Peterson or Audubon guides to North American birds, they concluded that it must be a hybrid. Their renewed interest came with the arrival of their September issue of *The Chat* describing the find. They had, however, examined the bird carefully through their 30X Balscope at a distance of "not more than 50 feet", which, as far as apparent distance is concerned, is equivalent to having the bird in hand. Their description matches that given by the other observers and adds "light bill and dark primaries"—features dependent upon light condition at the time.

The Gatewood observation extends the known time of the Garganey's stay at Cape Hatteras from March 21 through March 31. It has not been reported since this latter date, according to W. Verde Watson, Park Naturalist for the area (letter Oct. 8).—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews, N. C.*

Hawk Migration.—Tom Parks, Chairman of CBC Committee on Hawk Migration forwarded his report as of Oct. 2nd. He commented that bad weather had prevailed during most of the count days and that he felt sure hundreds of hawks had passed unseen in their southward migration along the mountain ridges. The only species noted in quantity were Broad-wings. Nearly 900 of these were seen during the six watch days included in the report. Following is the tabulation of the observations made during the fall of 1957.

Species.	Sept. 14,	21,	22,	25,	Oct. 2.
Cooper's		1	2		
Red-tailed		2	1		2
Broad-winged		452	230	206	
Peregrine		1			
Marsh					2
Other Buteos	3	9	1		
Other Accipiters	2	1			

Also seen, Sept. 21, 3 Ravens, and Sept. 22, 3 Bald Eagles. *Location:* Sept. 14, 21, 22 and Oct. 2—Thunder Hill, Watauga Co., N. C.; Sept. 25—6 miles SW of Lenoir (six of the Broadwings seen on the 25th., were over Lenoir). *Observers:* On the 14th.—Frank Hoyer, Fred May, Tom Parks; on the 21st.,—May and Parks; on the 22nd., Hoyer, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Lenoir, Mr. and Mrs. May, Parks, Mrs. C. S. Warren; on the 25th., Jack Harrington and A. H. Maxwell; on the 25th., Mrs. J. B. Dula and Mr. and

Mrs. Parks; and on Oct. 2, Parks.

Buff-breasted Sandpipers on the Carolina Coast.—The following reports of Buff-breasted Sandpipers (*Tryngites subruficollis*) in our states are most unusual. Indeed, there has been no record for South Carolina since 1884 nor for North Carolina since 1911. The observations were made ten days apart at sites separated by some 275 miles of coast line. Neither observer was aware of the other's find. The reports follow:

South Carolina.—"While walking with my dog on the front beach at the upper end of Sullivan's Island, S. C., on Sept. 7, 1957, my attention was attracted by a strange looking sandpiper. Fortunately, I had my 7X glasses with me at the time. At first glance I thought it was an Upland Plover, but I quickly realized my error. The bird was extremely tame, allowing me to approach to within 40 feet of it. At first it faced me but then ignored my presence which gave me the opportunity of examining it for at least three or four minutes. During this time I walked around it in a semi-circle, which enabled me to look at it from all sides.

While looking at it through the glasses, a "peep" lit very near it, which gave me an excellent comparison as to size, and in the background some Sanderlings very thoughtfully ran by. The bird stood differently from most of the local sandpipers and one of the things most noticeable was its tibia. At first glance, the back appeared black but with the aid of the glasses it could be seen that the feathers were slightly edged with white. When the bird finally flew, its flight was fast and erratic, and no white was seen.

I am sure (a very rare statement for me) it was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper. The only other record for South Carolina was one taken in 1884. (South Carolina Bird Life, page 249.) Upon my return home, I immediately communicated this information to Robert H. Coleman and E. Burnham Chamberlain. They visited the beach the following morning but due to a heavy rain were unable to locate the bird.

In reading the description of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Forbush, *Birds of Mass.*, Volume I, it appears that the specimen I saw was a juvenile who apparently had gotten off his regular migration route.

The time was 4:30 P.M. with the tide half flood. The weather was a heavy overcast.—E. MILBY BURTON, *Director, The Charleston Museum, Oct. 3, 1957.*

North Carolina.—On Sept. 17, 1957, M. T. Griffin and I made a trip to Hatteras and Ocracoke Island, N. C. At Ocracoke we saw a Golden Plover in fall plumage and with it were two Buff-breasted Sandpipers. They resembled miniature Upland Plovers. The Golden Plover flew but the Sandpipers remained and we got very good views of them (within 25 feet of one bird). They were buffy on the side of the head, throat, breast, belly and under the tail. They had light colored legs. The bills were dark, short and needle-like. Through 7x35 glasses, the bird watched at about 25 feet appeared to have a light eye ring. It was a new species for Griffin. I had watched one only a few days before (Sept. 7) in northern Prince Anne County, Va. —PAUL W. SYKES, *Box A-606, Virginia Tech Station, Blacksburg, Va., Sept. 22, 1957.*

A Saw-whet Owl and Other Birds on Mt. Mitchell.—We spent June 5th., through the 9th., on Mount Mitchell, tent-camping in the camp site near the top. The weather was very wet and cold the first and last days, clear and warm in between. Here is our list:

Peregrine Falcon—a male in swift flight over the Hallback Ridge between Clingman and Mitchell on June 7.

Saw-whet Owl—Heard in the balsams throughout the night of June 6, approaching near the camp site on occasion. Possibly a pair from the sound. A very monotonous series of tooting notes. Heard again the next night for a shorter time. Not seen.

Pileated Woodpecker—One at Lake Tahoma, June 9.

Raven—Four in high altitude flight on thermal, June 6. Singles heard or seen each day.

Golden-crowned Kinglet—Seen each day. A pair in deep woods near

camp, on steep rocky hillside, noted pulling moss from balsam branches in apparent nest-building activity.

Also noted: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Catbird, Robin, Veery, Solitary Vireo, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided and Canada Warblers, Indigo Bunting, Towhee, Junco, Song Sparrow. A female Grouse with two or more chicks was seen on June 9 just before we left. All of the passerines were in song. Territorial squabbles were frequent.—THOMAS W. SIMPSON, M.D., *Winston-Salem, N. C., June 23, 1957.*

Eastern Kingbird Eating Frogs.—At 3:45 P.M. on July 23, 1957, in Aiken County S. C., I was observing some young Eastern Bluebirds fledge, and noticed an Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) feeding within 25 yards of me. I noted that the kingbird was eating various kinds of insects; one time however, it flew to the ground, grabbed an object and flew back to its perch on the tree. I observed it through my binoculars and found that it had a small frog about two inches in length in its bill. It "worked" the frog for a few seconds in its bill and then flew to a nearby wire where it proceeded with its afternoon snack.

This is unusual in that, according to the literature, Kingbirds have never been observed eating amphibians, which are rare items in the diet of our passerine birds.—WILLIAM K. WILLARD (*University of Georgia Ecological Studies, A. E. C. Savannah River Plant Area*) P. O. Box 43, Campus Station, Athens, Ga. (Oberholser—in Bent's *Life Histories*—included "small fishes" as an item in the Eastern Kingbird's diet.—*Dept. Ed.*)

Common Cowbird Breeding in South Carolina.—While on a recent visit to Clemson, S. C., the writer was told of an interesting and important observation by Gaston Gage, Sr., who has given permission for its recording here.

On May 25, 1957, Gage watched a young Cowbird being *fed in the nest* of a Yellow-throated Vireo by an adult of that species. This nest was 30 ft. from the ground in a yard diagonally opposite the Gage residence. A very large nestling had been seen indistinctly on the 23rd., which aroused suspicion then; on the 25th the identity was apparent. The young vireos were crowded out by the interloper.

This is, as far as I know, the first instance of a Cowbird being seen in the nest of a host in South Carolina. On July 17, 1934, Prof. Sherman of Clemson found a young Cowbird being *fed on the ground* by an unidentified small bird, on the Clemson campus.

The presence of several immature Cowbirds near Charleston on July 8, 1957 suggests breeding even nearer the coast.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR.

Another Western Tanager near the North Carolina Coast.—A Tanager, Mar. 12, '57, in the elms above Cross Creek at the foot of the churchyard of St. John's Episcopal Church and Rectory. An olive-green bird, with wing bars.

3/21/57 Tanager to feed at the food placed under a privet hedge, 9 feet from Rectory dining-room window. This food was a mush made of bacon grease, grits and hot water. The bird fed each day through 3/26, and ate only at this area, and of this food.

The Tanager was wary of all other birds at first, but soon, after the second day, threatened House Sparrows and Cardinals; was intimidated by Brown Thrashers; and fed with Catbird and Red-eyed Towhees with no action from them or the Tanager. Although it occasionally fed at 15 minute intervals, the usual period was thirty to forty-five minute intervals, and, on some occasions, from one to two hours between feedings. Often its visits were very brief; sometimes it remained to feed for 1 to 4 minutes, but it always left with a full bill.

Dr. T. L. Quay, Mrs. L. E. Whitfield, and Claude Rankin saw the bird Sunday, March 24, on one of its brief visits. Mr. Henry Rankin saw it on March 25 feeding, and we stepped outside to watch its flight into the trees over the creek.

December, 1957

In color, the Tanager is primarily dusky olive-green, with brilliant yellow upper and under tail coverts. The upper wing bar is yellow, the lower one is pale creamy yellow. Two new black secondaries (or tertiaries) with white spots are in sharp contrast to the old dark, olive-gray primaries and secondaries of the *right* wing. The bars on the *right* wing are wider than those of the left. A few new black feathers in the greater coverts, with white tips, are discernible on both wings. The tail is dark olive-gray like the present wing feathers. The bill has a strong orange cast; legs, dark with a henna tone; eye, dark. Back is olive-green with some lighter patches of yellow, giving a mottled effect.

It is most interesting that the Western Spotted Towhee and the Western Tanager both appeared in this city churchyard which is located only two blocks north of the Old Market House, the busiest intersection in Fayetteville, on the Raleigh Road. The heavy traffic on the highway, and the constant activity in the churchyard have not deterred wild birds from finding sanctuary here, and feeding at the Rectory feeding stations.

Cross Creek, which meanders through Fayetteville, lies at the foot of the churchyard, its eastern boundary line, and the lush growth of elms, hackberries, sycamores, pecans and a tangle of low bushes and grasses, makes the creek a natural pathway for migrating birds.—DORIS C. HAUSER, 302 Green Street, Fayetteville, N. C. (Chandler S. Robbins and Mrs. Hauser concur in my belief that this was a male bird. Incidentally, my casual statement in the June '56 *Chat*, p. 46, that "there are a couple of sight records for Florida," requires revision. Alexander Sprunt tells me that there are actually 14 Florida records—12 sight and 2 collected specimens—*Dept. Ed.*)

Black-headed Grosbeak—a First for South Carolina.—One day last spring I received a letter from a young man in Kingstree, South Carolina stating he had killed an "unusual Grosbeak" on February 26, 1957, and that he would like to bring it to the Charleston Museum for identification. I wrote to him saying I would be delighted to see the bird, assuming, of course, that it was a rare winter record of a Rose-Breasted Grosbeak. He brought it into the Museum where it was carefully examined by E. Burnham Chamberlain, Ellison A. Williams and myself. Unfortunately the Museum's study collection contains but few specimens of the female Rose-Breasted Grosbeak and hardly any of the female Black-headed! Inasmuch as there was a question of doubt in our minds as to which species it belonged, it was sent to Dr. Herbert Friedmann, Curator, Division of Birds, United States National Museum, who pronounced it a Black-headed Grosbeak, (*Pheucticus melanocephalus melanocephalus*). This constitutes the first record of this species for South Carolina.

However, there is an interesting sidelight to the story which shows the keen acumen of Francis P. Weston of Pensacola, Florida. Apparently he heard about the bird from Herbert R. Sass, Editor of "Woods and Waters" and in an article which appeared in that column of the News and Courier, dated March 27, 1957, Weston made the following statement:

"I wonder if your Kingstree correspondent of last Wednesday didn't miss a good bet. You answered his inquiry about the occurrence of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak in South Carolina, but it seems to me that perhaps he should have inquired about the Black-headed Grosbeak instead."

Weston should be highly commended for the accuracy of his prognostication.—E. MILBY BURTON, *Director, The Charleston Museum, Oct. 3, 1957.*

Western Grasshopper Sparrow, an Addition to the South Carolina List.—On March 19, 1957, near the edge of a large field in the Savannah River Plant area, Aiken County, South Carolina, I noted a Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) whose plumage seemed unusually pale and grayish. Collecting the bird, I found it to be a male, with testes 2 millimeters long; it weighed 17.5 grams and had very little fat. Comparison with skins in the collections of the University of Georgia and the University of Kansas (through courtesy of H. B. Tordoff) confirmed my suspicion that the bird was an example of the western subspecies (*A. s. perpallidus*).

Negative evidence from the literature, including Sprunt and Chamberlain's *South Carolina Bird Life*, 1949, and Sprunt's recent note (*Chat*, 20:(4) 71, 1956) on the status of the South Carolina check-list, indicates that this is the first record of the occurrence of *perpallidus* in South Carolina. The specimen (R.A.N. 1844) remains in the collection of the University of Georgia.—ROBERT A. NORRIS (*University of Georgia Ecological Studies, AEC Savannah River Plant area*), 1918 Hahn Avenue, Aiken, S. C. (The A.O.U. Check List, 5th edition, extends the winter range of *perpallidus* to southwestern and northern Georgia and cites as Accidental, the specimen collected at Blacksburg, Va., Nov. 19, 1946.—*Dept. Ed.*)

Briefs for the Files.

Red-throated Loon, 1 at Carolina Beach (Wilmington), July 8 and 9, seen by James Mattocks and reported by Mrs. Appleberry; 1 at Wrightsville Beach (Wilmington), Aug. 22, George A. Smith—both birds appeared to be in good health. Cattle Egret, 4 adults, 2 nests with 4 eggs and 1 egg, May 8, Battery Island, Southport, N. C., John B. Funderburg and Charles E. DePoe. White Ibis, 1 adult trailed by 4 young at Long Beach, N. C., July 24, Mrs. Cecil Appleberry and Clifford Comeau; 7 nests with 1 to 3 eggs, Drum Island in Charleston harbor, Apr. 19, Ernest Cutts. Red-breasted Merganser, 1 at Pawley's Island, S. C., July 21, Dot and Douglas Wade and Kay Sisson. Broad-winged Hawk, 1, Aug. 1, near Wilmington, John Irvine. Golden Eagle (belated report), 1 trapped by a Mr. Burgess, Dec., 1955, at Jocassee, Oconee County, S. C., and kept for some months before it died. Identified by Waddy McFall and reported by Kay Sisson. Bald Eagle, 1 over Yelton's Pond, Eastover, S. C., Sept. 7, Mrs. W. H. Faver. Marsh Hawk, 3 near Columbia, Aug. 22, Mrs. Faver. Osprey, two in apparent courtship display at Charleston, Mar. 20.—1 carrying a piece of pine bark, or possibly a cone, in its claws for some time as they wheeled past each other, E. Burnham Chamberlain. Sora Rail, 1 immature female—a trace of black at base of bill—found freshly killed, Sept. 24, in yard by Mrs. J. P. Hamilton, in suburban Charlotte. Woodcock, adult and 6 to 8 young were seen by R. H. Fowler crossing causeway connecting Garden City and mainland, Horry County, S. C., about the last of May, Douglas E. Wade. Cabot's Tern, 7 nests at Bull's Bay, S. C., colony, June 23, Cutts. Ground Doves, a pair was watched daily during the week of June 16 at Long Beach, Southport, but no nest was found, B. R. Chamberlain. Yellow-billed Cuckoo, several adults appeared rather suddenly, June 15, a few miles north of Hillsboro, N. C., and on June 16 at least four were within earshot, Charles H. Blake. Black-billed Cuckoo, 1 in walnut tree, Sept. 8 & 9, Eastover, Mrs. Faver. Barn Owl, nest on the floor of a duck blind well out in a pond on Bray's Island, Beaufort Co., S. C., adult incubating and brooding 3-4 eggs and 2 very small young, Mar. 20, found by William P. Baldwin, reported by EBC; 2 three-quarter grown young captured and exhibited in box in store at Congaree Air Base, May 31—late date—Mrs. Faver. Great Horned Owl, 2 young in old Osprey nest, found by Baldwin at Medway Plantation, Berkeley Co., S. C., Mar. 20, EBC. Red-headed Woodpeckers had young a-wing at Aynor, S. C., Aug. 14, Mrs. G. E. Charles. Gray Kingbird, several in the village of Southport for some weeks. First noted June 28 on a wire, on Aug. 21, 4 in sight at one time, on Aug. 23 there were 3. Observed closely by the Appleberrys. Acadian Flycatcher, nest, 3 eggs, May 22; 2 nests, 2 eggs each and 2 nests, 3 eggs each, May 26, all in Charleston area, Cutts; nest with 3 eggs in hemlock 12 miles north of Lenoir, June 1, Fred May. Tufted Titmouse, fledgelings were being fed, Apr. 30, at Aynor, S. C. Mrs. Charles. Mockingbird, 7 nests located at Charleston—the first contained 4 eggs, Feb. 17, his earliest record, Cutts. American Redstart, 1 female at Charlotte, July 6, Joseph R. Norwood; 1 female at Raleigh, Aug. 5, Mrs. T. L. Quay. Baltimore Oriole, male, female and 2 immatures in yard at Eastover, S. C., eating scuppernongs, Sept. 9, female seen again, Sept. 15, Mrs. Faver. Bachman's Sparrow, nest and 5 eggs located in the Charles-area, May 9, Cutts. *All dates except for Golden Eagle, 1957.*



Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	\$1.00	Contributing	\$25.00
Supporting	\$5.00	Affiliated Club	\$2.00
Life—\$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)			

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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THE CHAT

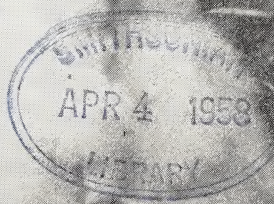
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Cover Photograph.—Peregrine Falcon on a New Hampshire Eyrie. By Charles A. Proctor, Professor of Physics, Emeritus, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H. Although this Falcon was photographed in New England, it is the same species found throughout the eastern U. S. including the Carolinas. Unfortunately, even though a relatively rare hawk, the Peregrine has no legal protection in either of our states. The damage falcons do to waterfowl is so minute in the over-all picture that we should be glad to sacrifice a few ducks just to be able to see one of these grandly noble creatures once in a while.

The Chat

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

A new year is under way. Let us all strive to make it one of CBC's best and strongest.

My first announcement is the good news of the confirmation of the Annual Business Meeting dates, March 22-23 at Henderson, N. C., and the Spring Field Trip dates, May 16, 17 & 18, at High Hampton Inn, Cashiers, N. C. All of us should be anticipating these meetings and making early plans. Cashiers should be perfect for the warbler migration.

And speaking of that species, don't you think it a fine idea for **your local clubs** to present to a school or public library, a copy of the excellent new *Warblers of America*, edited by Ludlow Griscom and Alexander Sprunt, Jr., (See review in this issue by Mrs. William Faver) as a memorial to a beloved member of your club, a teacher or civic leader who has made an outstanding contribution to his or her community.

Next subject of interest to members is the question of enlarging and improving *The Chat*. There seems to be a general over-all desire to do this, which to accomplish not only requires a higher expenditure—whether gained through a larger membership or increased dues—but also depends largely on a wider field of writers, reporters and contributors to the magazine. A magazine is only as good as its contents. There are many able writers in CBC who are doing nothing for *The Chat*. Consider this carefully. Then tell us what you would like to see included. Personally, I should like to see again the department "Among Our Members". We are all interested in other members' birding activities.

At our last meeting in October at Poinsett, those members who attended will recall that we voted to order 3000 of the Audubon Hawk Circulars with our own "Distributed by" on them. When I was at the National Audubon Society meeting in New York last November, I learned that they do not print them with the special insignia under 5000. There was no time to contact CBC so I ordered 5000 and am paying for and keeping out 1000 for use in my work in conservation with the N.C.F.W.C. Of course they bear the insignia of CBC but our goal is the same.

I am now anxious to have these circulars distributed, NOT just gathering dust. They are free to all CBC members in any quantity. Order from Harry Davis, N. C. State Museum, Raleigh. Two should be on display in each room of every school in both of the Carolinas. One side shows what hawks look like in the air, the other what hawks eat. Can YOU and your local club if you belong to one, help distribute them?

Every CBC member and all local clubs should be emphasizing hawk protection. And this brings to mind the successful field trip CBC had in western North Carolina a few years ago, to watch and study hawk migration. Wouldn't the membership like to go on another one of these?

In a recent *Lesser Squawk*, publication of the Charleston Natural History Society, there is a brief note on a two-year study being made by Ted Beckett and Bob Coleman, on the relative abundance of the Black and Turkey Vultures in the coastal area. "This study has been in progress for a year, and some interesting facts are coming to light." This is just the sort of project that could be made in other areas. (In my own jauntings about I've noticed fewer of both species.) Let's all get busy on some constructive birding work and report the findings to *The Chat*.

CHARLOTTE HILTON GREEN

FALCON IN THE SKY

J. J. MURRAY

As a minister it is a natural thing for me, as well as appropriate to my subject tonight, to start out with a verse from the Bible. It comes from the Book of Proverbs in the 30th chapter:

"There be three things which are too wonderful for me, yea four which I know not: the way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid."

Solomon has been credited by tradition with the authorship of the Book of Proverbs; but I do not think he could have written this verse. This verse must have been written by a bachelor. Knowing as much as he did about women, Solomon would no doubt have said, "the way of a maid with a man."

But the part I am thinking about is the first of the four phrases about things that are wonderful—"the way of an eagle in the air."

We are here tonight because all of us have a hobby. Every man or woman needs a hobby. We may need it desperately when we are old and when we have to step aside from the *work* of our lives. But even when we are young it is of great value as a relaxation. It loosens a man up; it keeps him out of ruts; it broadens his horizons. It does not make too much difference what the hobby is. After all, you do not choose a hobby; it chooses you. It is like catching the measles; or, on a much higher plane, like finding a wife. You do not set out to do it. The lightning just strikes!

Hobbies do not have to be reasonable; more particularly, they do not have to be reasonable to the dull mass of outsiders. I have a collection of cartoons, poking fun at bird watchers; but I have never seen a cartoon stop anyone with the disease from wading in a swamp to find a Prothonotary Warbler. After my wife went with me to her first two or three bird meetings, she very innocently (at least, I hope it was innocently) said to me: "Does bird watching make people nuts; or is it just nuts that take it up?" But it doesn't seem funny to her any longer. The lightning struck. She now has the disease.

To be sure all hobbies are not equal. Ours is, of course, the finest of all hobbies. It combines in such rich fashion sport and exercise, science and intelligence, and all the aspects of the aesthetic. Birds present such an amazingly attractive combination of form and color; of song and action; and of fascinating problems to fill many lifetimes of study.

But to come nearer to our subject. I suppose every bird student has his favorite bird or group of birds. With some it is the homely garden birds, Cardinal and Wren and Catbird. And very properly so, for they give the best scope for study. Few birds are more common than the Song Sparrow. Yet, until Mrs. Margaret Nice began her work, nearly every statement in the books about the Song Sparrow was either entirely or partially incorrect. Everybody knows the Robin; but nobody knows the answers to a dozen simple questions about the Robin in your garden.

For other people, the shorebirds make up the favorite group. And sure-

ly there is nothing more charming in nature than the evolutions of a flock of Killdeers, or Sanderlings along a beach.

My favorite group, at least tonight (for my favorite bird is generally the bird at which I happen for the moment to be looking), is made up of the hawks. I am fascinated by their size, their wildness, their skill in the air.

And my favorite bird is the bird which in America we call the Duck Hawk, but which in English literature is known as the Peregrine Falcon. It is the bird which through the centuries in Europe was the favorite bird in that type of hunting which takes its name from the bird itself, Falconry. The nobleman rode out to the chase with a hooded Peregrine perched on his gauntleted left arm. Because it is such a noble bird, no man of birth lower than an Earl was permitted to keep a Peregrine. The King had a full staff of falconers to train and care for his birds.

By the way, I am not in too much sympathy with the effort to change the names of our falcons back to their European names; but in case of this bird, Duck Hawk does seem too plebeian a cognomen.

The Peregrine Falcon is a magnificent bird, fast and wild and powerful. I have seen its mastery of the air both in the European and the American bird. Once on a mountain top in the Highlands of Scotland, I was looking out over the long, narrow lake that forms one of the eastern links of the Caledonian Canal. A shadow appeared high over Loch Lochy and at my level. Aiming my field glasses, I saw that it was the bird I had been hoping to see, a Peregrine Falcon, crossing the lake. Mile after mile I followed him as he sped with steady, strong wing-beats toward his high aerie in the rocky cliffs.

Last summer I watched a pair of them playing over the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, chasing one another in and out of their nesting site in the red cliffs. The grace and the skill of those beautiful creatures added even to the awesome majesty of the Grand Canyon.

One evening in Germany just a few weeks before Hitler launched his wild drive for world rule, we walked out into the square at Cologne for a view of that grand Cathedral that started about the year 1100 and took nine centuries in building. The cathedral with its twin towers seems to grow right out of the ground. As we looked up in the twilight two interesting things happened. A huge Zeppelin came in sight, floating noiselessly through the sky, until for a moment it was outlined between the two towers. Then, from across the Rhine came two speedy Peregrine Falcons, also appearing between the towers, but only for a second before they sailed into the South Tower to their nesting place. The contrast between these fine living creatures and the great man-made machine was all in favor of the birds.

Some of my most interesting memories are bound up with the sight of a Peregrine. The only time I ever came near death in bird work was in the effort to reach one of their nests in an Alleghany mountain cliff. John Grey and I had borrowed a rope and lugged it to the top of the mountain. We tied it to a clump of chestnut saplings and dropped it down over the cliff. I went down the rope hand over hand, and searched the cliff. The nest was not far away, so that I could hear the young in it, but could not reach it. On the way back up the rope, I found that strand after

strand had snapped. The rope had developed dry rot. Fortunately not more than one of the three strands broke at any one place; but I reached the top in a cold sweat.

The Duck Hawk is a bird of power. The pair at the nest in the cliff just referred to, stayed aloft for three hours, always in sight and never coming to a perch. It is said to fly up to 90 miles per hour on a straight-way. No bird can ever hope to escape by plain flying. No one knows how fast the Duck Hawk can go in a power dive. Bent records an instance where an aviator, diving at 175 m.p.h., was passed by a plunging Duck Hawk as if his plane were standing still. It takes its food on the wing, clubbing down a flicker or a duck with clenched fists, sometimes catching the dead prey before it hits the ground. Sometimes it turns over in flight to pluck an unlucky dove out of the air above him.

It is called a Duck Hawk because it likes ducks where it can find them. In our mountain country it has small chance at such royal food, and must be satisfied with Flickers or Doves or such lesser fowl. It is the greatest enemy of the Blue Jay, accustomed to torment other hawks but wise enough to let the Duck Hawk severely alone.

One day at Big Spring Pond a Duck Hawk, striking at some Green-winged Teals, flew within thirty feet of me, making a noise like an express train. Another time at the same pond two of us were walking up on a mixed flock of ducks, which had in it two Gadwalls, birds rare enough with us for a close look. When we hemmed the flock in too closely, they took to the air and flew in circles above the pond. We were watching them with glasses, delighting in the skill with which they kept in formation, when suddenly, the flock burst apart, and each bird for himself dashed toward shelter, even though it had to be near us. We could not imagine what had occasioned this panic, until we saw a dark flash over the water, and remembered that some time before we had seen a Duck Hawk perched in a tree a third of a mile away.

The finest sight I have ever witnessed in the avian world was the maneuvering of a pair of Duck Hawks at Grandfather Mountain many years ago. Alexander Sprunt and I had been watching a straggling flight of migrating Duck Hawks, apparently two family parties, when we noticed that a pair were engaged in play. The female was floating along, high over the Linville Valley and about on a level with our position on the mountain. The male would fly so high that he seemed but a speck to our natural eyes; then set his wings for a power dive, heading straight for his mate. As he came to the very point of striking her, he would swerve, the rush of air from his dive turning her over and over in the air. Again and again he did it, she seeming to enjoy it as much as he.

From all this, you see that I like hawks. Indeed, I have a passion for them. I think that in this group of birds you find one of the finest end products of evolutionary creation.

But there are many people who do not like hawks. Many farmers hate them. Many sportsmen, though not now so many as formerly, think they are vermin, and shoot them whenever they have a chance. Their idea is like the pioneer's idea of Indians; "The only good hawk is a dead hawk." The slaughter at points along Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania, and at Cape May, New Jersey, is a case in point, though much of this is from the

mere love of slaughter, for not only hawks, but flickers and doves and all kinds of small birds are shot in the general massacre. There is still an occasional county in Virginia that pays the bounty on hawks, in spite of all the evidence about its uselessness from any standpoint and about the frauds inevitably connected with the bounty system. You may remember the article in *Virginia Wildlife* some years back, "Mutiny on the Bounty," when some sportsmen were waking up to the absurdity of the bounty idea.

All scientific biologists, not to say all nature lovers, know that this hatred of hawks is foolish, that it is not based on sound knowledge, and that the persecution of hawks and owls is even detrimental to man's interests. Others are now joining us. For a long time the nature lovers, who wanted to see this persecution stopped, have been voices crying in the wilderness of ignorance and prejudice, but now there seem to be at least some ears to hear their cries.

There have been in my memory three stages in the effort to block the slaughter of these birds of prey. These three stages might be called: the economic, the scientific, and the aesthetic.

(1) The first stage was the **Economic**, or **Practical**, although in the end, like so many things labelled "practical," it was not practical or common-sense at all.

In that stage, hawks and owls, and indeed all other animals, were looked on simply as man's possessions. An animal, bird or mammal, was not thought of as having any rights of its own. It was looked on as existing only for man's benefit—for his use, or sport, or, if he chose, as something for him to destroy. If it were worth man's while to wipe out, or assist in wiping out, a fine creature like the Passenger Pigeon, or an interesting and highly specialized species like the Great Auk, there was no reason why he should not do it. To be sure there were "cranks," who protested against such an assumption of divinity on the part of mortal man, but they were called "zoophiles" or "sentimentalists" and largely ignored.

Naturally, in such a situation, the only appeal was that of man's selfish interest, the appeal to his economic interests, or at best to his fairness when it could be shown him that a particular species did him and his possessions no damage. And so, the basis for the fight against persecution of hawks and owls was the study of *food habits*, by laboratory analysis of stomach contents and by field observations around nests; thus to show that while some hawks might be harmful to man's economic interests, others were beneficial to him.

Surprising things were discovered in this way. Dr. Ellison A. Smyth, in an article on the birds of Montgomery County, Virginia (*Auk*, 1912, 516), told of an experience he had with a farmer and a Broad-winged Hawk. The farmer had heard Dr. Smyth's defense of some hawks, and finally in great indignation brought in to him a female Broad-winged Hawk which he had just shot. It had a nest in a large oak near his home. He said that the hawk had been killing his chickens, and that he had shot it just after it had eaten a chicken. Dr. Smyth took him and the hawk into the laboratory, opened the hawk's stomach in the farmer's presence, and showed the man to his astonishment that not only was there no chicken

feather in it but the crop contained the remains, easily distinguishable, of a young rat.

This kind of study resulted in the division of hawks into the "bad" hawks and the "good" hawks; or rather into three classes, beneficial, neutral, and harmful. The "harmful" hawks turned out to be particularly the Cooper's and Sharp-shinned, which happen to be the most difficult for the farmer or sportsman to shoot. The rest were shown by this method to be mainly beneficial to man's interests. And in general, by the control of rodents, which do so much damage to man's crops, all of the hawks and owls taken together do man far more good than harm. It has been estimated that a pair of Barn Owls is worth at least \$30 a year to a farm.

I remember how, about thirty years ago, the apple growers of the lower Valley were having serious trouble with small mice girdling the roots of apple trees. Experts were called in, only to tell the orchardists that they had brought this plague on themselves by destroying all hawks and, particularly, the little Screech Owls. Men who had previously shot Screech Owls began to put up nest boxes for them.

We do have to acknowledge that on this basis we do not get anywhere for our falcons. They are almost exclusively meat eaters, with a small proportion of insect food. In an analysis of 182 Duck Hawk stomachs (Sprunt, *Birds of Prey*) from many different places, remains of birds were found in 81, of mammals and insects in 15. Bent lists over 50 kinds of birds taken by Duck Hawks, the most common being Jays, Flickers, Pigeons, Meadowlarks and other birds of intermediate size; but as small as Warblers and as large as Mallards, Herons and Pheasants.

But as P. A. Taverner (*Birds of Canada*) has remarked, turning from the purely practical aspect: "There should be enough game in the country to support so picturesque a character without arousing the jealousy of other hunters."

(2) The second stage in the battle against the persecution of birds of prey was the **Scientific**.

It might be called the **Ecological** stage, for it was an effort not simply to study the hawk in relation to man, but in relation to the whole natural environment in which it lived. This is certainly more truly "practical" than the barely practical first stage.

From this viewpoint there are no "good" hawks or "bad" hawks; there are only natural hawks. Predation is a perfectly natural part of the system of life. From a "small bird's eye view" any hawk is bad. But from a "worm's eye view", a Robin is the most vicious creature imaginable; and the more of them the hawk catches the better the worm should like it.

Predation is not only natural, but is necessary. The research of this scientific period began to show several things in succession:

(a) Predation is not always harmful to the species preyed upon, but is often beneficial. It may be harmful to the individual bird indeed, but at the same time helpful to the species. It is necessary for Nature to keep every species "on its toes." If there were no struggle for existence in Nature, there would be no advancement in Nature. It is only in the case of man, where (we hope) intelligence plays a part, that there can be any loosening of this law; and even there it is dangerous.

If in Nature there were, for example, no natural checks on the Bobwhite,

unfit individuals would reproduce their kind, with a consequent degeneration of the stock. It seems likely that predators take chiefly the slow, the weak, and the sickly Bob-whites, leaving the stronger individuals to carry on the race. We have learned that a species can stand a reasonable amount of predation, whether from natural enemies, like hawks, owls, foxes, weasels, or even from unnatural enemies like man, supported as he is by automobiles and high-powered weapons.

(b) This scientific research developed the concept of the Balance of Nature, or the Web of Life.

We can overdo the concept of the balance of nature, if by it we mean letting Nature entirely alone. Since man has come into the picture, there is no longer any Balance of Nature, with which there should be no interference. From now on we have to do the best we can in a confused situation, interfering as little as possible, and only where we have reason to think our interference is in accord with Nature's trends. For instance, there is no use in killing off the Screech Owls, and then being over-run with a plague of mice; or of killing off coyotes, and having a plague of jack rabbits; or killing off all mountain lions and in consequence ruining the Kaibab Forest with too many deer.

In turn, we have learned that predation is only one and by no means the chief factor in the welfare of a species. The limitations on the numbers of a species are ecological, predation being only one of the elements. The relation between the number of Quail on a farm this spring and the numbers left next spring, is dependent upon food and water and cover. A farm will have as many Quail as it has food to support them and cover to protect them.

Now, with this better understanding of the unity of all living things, plant and animal and human, there is coming a new sense of our own place in this "web of life."

(3) And so we are entering a third stage, not only in our attitude toward the birds of prey, but toward the conservation of all nature. This stage is the **Aesthetic**, or **Comprehensive**.

(a) It means, for one thing, the realization that the general public has its concern for and its rights in the outdoor world and its use, along with farmer and sportsman, along with the commercial interests of mining and grazing and lumbering.

The boy with his pole, as he fishes the stream, needs to hear the Kingfisher's rattle and to see its flash of blue, entirely apart from the scientific fact that the Kingfisher's damage to fish is a small matter. Visitors from the cities to our beaches have the right to watch the parade over the surf of the Brown Pelicans and the file of Cormorants on the pilings, even if they do take some fish. The wild hoot of the Great Horned Owl in the dark woods is worth an occasional hen. And most of all, the pageant of the Peregrine in the sky justifies his meal of ducks or flickers.

(b) It means, for another thing, that the social sanity of our modern life depends upon a good measure of Nature in our schedule. Aldo Leopold, in the first sentence in *A Sand County Almanac*, says that "There are some of us who can live without wild things, and some who cannot." I take it that the reason you are members of the VSO is that you are one of the

"cannots." "For us of the minority," writes Leopold, "the opportunity to see geese is more important than television and the chance to find a pasqueflower is a right as inalienable as free speech." More people need to join that minority, if our nation's life is to be sound.

You have but to visit one of our National Parks, particularly in the West, to know that there are people in increasing numbers in our land who feel the need of a direct contact with Nature. That intangible but very real value is at the heart of our conservation efforts. I have not in a long time been so proud of America as when I read in *Wild America* what Roger Peterson's companion on their circum-continental trip, James Fisher, the English biologist, said about the wonder and the wisdom of our National Park system. Not only for these parks and others which need to be set aside, but for every bit of wild America around each town and village we must be ready to labor and to fight.

America is no longer a pioneer nation, where all of us stand on the ground and can look out into the woods. Too many of us now stand only on the concrete, and it gives our spirits fallen arches. Too many of us look out only on steel and brick and mortar, and the eyes of our minds grow dull. There is danger that we shall become increasingly more shrewd and increasingly less wise.

There are curses as well as blessings in civilization. The contact with Nature is one of the things that will restrain those curses. It is not only a tragic thing to wipe out a species of wild bird or mammal that has been a hundred million years in the making; to cut back all our forests to a dull uniformity of second-growth; to squander our natural resources of soil and water; it is not only a tragic thing but it is suicidal for us to brush aside all simple, natural things and become but urban tenants, who do not truly own the ground on which they live because they never see or know the life it creates.

I have talked about the Peregrine. I have, of course, been thinking of him as a plain, real and wonderful fact in our Wild America. But as much I have been thinking of him as a *Symbol*. In his grace and power, in his skill, he is the symbol of all that is beautiful and exciting in the world around us.

He is the Symbol of Wild America, elemental and untamed, symbol of the delight in beauty, symbol of the freedom to which we must hold, if life is to continue to have in it any simplicity and any zest.

He is the Symbol, not of God's final and finest gifts indeed, for those lie in the realm of personal relationship, human and divine; but Symbol of God's first and simplest gifts, the Nature from which we have come, and to which, if all our hope of advancement in intelligence and in spirituality are to be realized, we must continue to hold fast.

(This talk was delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology at Wachapreague, Virginia, on May 3, 1957. It is reproduced here, as in The Raven, in the informal style in which it was given.)

Dr. Murray was born in Summerville, S. C., has lived in Virginia since 1924, moving recently to Louisville, Ky. He has edited *The Raven*, Bulletin of the Va. Society of Ornithology, since 1930, and is author of an annotated *Check-List of Birds in Virginia*. He is an Elective Member of AOU, and for the past ten years has been co-editor with Julian K. Potter of the Middle Atlantic Coast Region for *Audubon Field Notes*. CBC's special interest in Dr. Murray: He was invited by Charlotte Hilton Green to give the principal talk (explaining the formation of a state club) at the organizational meeting of the N. C. Bird Club in 1927 at Raleigh.—Ed.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE WARBLERS OF AMERICA. Published by Devin-Adair, 23 E. 26th St., N. Y. 10, N. Y. \$15.00. Edited by Ludlow Griscom and Alexander Sprunt, Jr. with illustrations by John Henry Dick, is without a doubt one of the most beautiful and complete books I have had the privilege of owning. To those of us who are fascinated with the study of the many species of wood warblers, this book is indeed a dream come true. In it is all the information available about ninety species of warblers—all to be found on this side of the globe, from Alaska to Argentina, from Newfoundland to the West Indies.

The very handsome six-color offset plates, painted from nature by Mr. Dick, and printed in Holland by Smeets Lithographers, are exquisite in every detail, with the exception of the plate opposite page 197 on which appear the two Waterthrushes. The Northern is an unfortunate color. Each species on this continent is portrayed in its breeding habitat. The South American paintings were done from skins, three color plates showing thirty-one tropical species, the first time that these species have been shown in color in a book. The publisher says that the black and white drawings were done as decorations and space fillers, but to me, they too are delightful, and add much to the attractiveness of the book.

The first Chapter is an introduction to the Warbler Family, written by Alexander F. Skutch, in which he gives the characteristics as a whole. The Classification of Warblers and the Technique of Warbler Study are discussed by Ludlow Griscom, who for fifty years has followed the call of these little birds, and who probably knows more about them than any other one person in the world. He explains the songs of warblers in the next two chapters, then an analysis of the songs of thirty-nine species is given as they have been tape-recorded by W. W. H. Gunn, with six additional ones by Dr. D. J. Borror.

Two chapters then deal with the geographical distribution (by Mr. Griscom) and a comparison of the foraging range of warblers as compiled by W. W. H. Gunn, Alexander Sprunt, Jr., James Bond, E. R. Blake, A. F. Skutch, and H. L. Cogswell.

Beginning as Chapter eight, sixty species of warblers breeding in the United States, Canada and Baja, California are presented by the ornithologist who is the best informed about that particular bird. Thirty-three of these individual write-ups have been done by Alexander Sprunt, Jr., the rest having been prepared by noted men whose names are familiar to members of our Carolina Bird Club. In dealing with each species, a general summary of its outstanding characteristics or habits is given in large print. Then in smaller print, the scientific names and local names are listed, followed by a description of the field characters, nesting data, voice, food habits, general range, and unless it is a very common species, a map showing the breeding range of the bird.

The remaining chapters tell of the warblers found in Mexico, the West Indies, Panama, Central and South America, with three color-plates, some of which are strikingly beautiful!

Some of the warblers of Alaska we recognize as the migratory birds that we see in our yards each fall and spring. Some familiar ones are found, too, in British Colombia and the Prairie Provinces of Canada. A full page map classifying the Canadian Forests is followed by a chapter discussing the warblers in Eastern Canada, where again we find our migratory birds as nesting species.

A section devoted to notes on the contributors to the book is very interesting, in that it introduces us to those men who may not be as well known to us in this section of the country.

Altogether, the compilation of this book is a wonderful achievement, and stands for years of hard work and intensive study.—ANNIE RIVERS FAVER.

THE BIRD WATCHER'S ANTHOLOGY. By Roger Tory Peterson. Harcourt Brace & Company, New York. 401 pp. Illustrated. \$7.50. This collection of writings from the pens of some 80 famous naturalists is designed to interest bird watchers at every stage of their development. The seven sections of the book begin with "The Spark" (and what bird watcher has not had some personal experience which kindled his desire to study birds, whether it be as John Kieran and the White-breasted Nuthatch, or as Sigurd Olson and the call of the wild geese?), and end with "The Full-fledged Watcher", a series of papers on bird behavior by a number of keen observers, such as John James Audubon, Ernest Thompson Seton, Alexander Skutch, William Vogt.

Although many of the selections deal with birds in far away places (Peterson describes his first sight of the great bustard in Andalusia as the ultimate for him), all of us, I think, will identify ourselves with the experiences of certain of the authors. We in the South have a special affinity for the writings of Edwin Way Teale (A Hundred Miles of Warblers is the chapter here), and who has not experienced a hundred times "The Birds I Used to See", as told by Allan Devoe, or has not felt "inadequate" when in the field with experts, as Florence P. Jaques so aptly describes in "The Big Day"?

There are about 95 drawings, and a frontispiece painting of Atlantic Puffins, by Mr. Peterson, as well as a couple of articles written by him which have appeared in Audubon Magazine, all up to his usual high standard of perfection.

Perhaps the most interesting section of the book is "There Is Often Adventure", tales of the most hazardous and most exciting aspects of bird watching. Accounts of experiences in "Edge of the Cliff" by Edward Howe Forbush, "An Adventure with a Turkey Vulture" by George Miksh Sutton and "The Eggers of Labrador" by Audubon, describe extreme physical discomforts and dangers attendant upon some phases of bird watching.

It probably was difficult for Mr. Peterson to decide into which section to place some of the articles. "The Kings Bar Rookery" by Helen Cruickshank, which is in the "Glamour Birds" section, could well have been in the "Adventure" series. Few women have had as much adventure with birds as has Mrs. Cruickshank. Also, several of the chapters under "Birds in Far Places" are full of adventure and at the same time refer to birds most glamorous.

A helpful and important part of the book is the succinct biographical sketch preceding each selection, explaining, in a way, why the article was written. These bits of human interest add to our knowledge of such ornithologists as John Burroughs, Julian Huxley, Elliott Coues, Peter Scott, Maurice Brooks, Maurice Broun and the rest.

This book is a fine addition to the library of every bird watcher, active or armchair, and may well be instrumental in keeping alive the spark in many a reader.—ROBERT OVERING

THE WONDER OF WATER, a provocative 16-page booklet in four colors with the easily readable format of the cartoon, published by The Soil Conservation Society of America, 838 Fifth Ave., Des Moines 14, Iowa, at a very small price.

Wonder of Water tells the story in a typical community of drouth and flood, its effect on every living thing and person, the solving of the water problem by the building of a proper watershed, participated in by farm and city people, adults and students.

This is a companion of "The Story of Land" published in 1955 by SCS which distributed a million copies throughout the country.

A guide has been prepared for teachers, educators, nature club leaders and garden and other club conservation chairmen who will find this booklet an important aid in their work. Wonder of Water will be particularly useful for children in elementary and junior high schools.—K.C.S.



BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAVER, Department Editor

On Friday, January tenth, Kay Sisson and I had the opportunity of seeing "Backyard Birding" at its best when we went to Hartsville, S. C. to spend the day with Mrs. Pinckney King, her family and her birds. While there, we also enjoyed visiting Mrs. Paul Rogers and her home and birds. We asked Mrs. King to tell us of her experiences feeding Baltimore Orioles, and she wrote as follows:

The Baltimore Orioles first came in mid-January, 1953, and a sorry-looking crew they were, ragged and dark. There were five of them at one of the window trays, eating bread. With our nose to the window pane and Peterson in hand, we finally decided that they were Baltimore Orioles. About a week later a beautiful adult male joined them, so then we were certain. We fed them fruit and they loved it, and from that winter to this—five times—they've come back. Their arrival dates have been: 1-15-53; 11-11-54; 11-1-55; 11-13-56; and September 26—early!—this year. They eat any kind of grapes, oranges, apples, bread, suet, peanut butter, grits and rice, but they prefer Tokay grapes and peanut butter. They're ravenous all the time and practically monopolize the trays. One of our feeders hangs by a center wire. We like to wind the grape stems on this and watch. Invariably, there will be one or two orioles standing tiptoe on the feeder, reaching up to eat, while one "hangs by his heels" from the wire, eating upside down.

The way they eat oranges is ridiculous. They stand on one foot and with the other hold the edge of the orange, to keep it from wobbling while they gobble. Or they stand *on* the orange, straddling it, and head between knees, digging down in each section. Sometimes they put their heads so far down in the orange that their eyes disappear! The mockingbirds and jays that come to the trays usually come out losers when they challenge the orioles, who refuse to be intimidated by anything in feathers. They are quite quarrelsome among themselves but they tolerate or ignore the other birds.

The first year they came we had six. Every year since we've had from ten to fourteen. This year I've seen, at one time, ten "plain" ones and two adult males. In 1953 they left on February 15th; since then they've stayed until the middle of March or early April. On December 10th, this year, we noticed among our orioles a stranger, which has been identified as a male Western Tanager! He may have been with us for some days prior to this, as he comes and goes with the orioles. His wide yellow wing-bar first caught our attention, and then his bill, which is decidedly heavier and yellow. He's still boarding here, and his plumage has grown much brighter and yellower. When we first spotted him the red head was very noticeable. He eats suet, bread and peanut butter. So far, I haven't seen him eat fruit. He's most pugnacious—won't allow anything too near him when he's eating. But he's perfectly beautiful, especially in flight. When he and a

male oriole are together on the tray, they make a picture that's almost *too* bright!

From Mrs. Francis Barrington in Charleston, we always have very interesting notes. She writes: The following records are all for our birdbath and feeders, in full, clear view of our dining-room window, at distances ranging from fifteen feet (the bath) to ten feet (branch feeder) to ten inches (window feeder).

On November 1, 1957, the Orange-crowned Warbler appeared again, making the eleventh consecutive winter that we have had this species with us as a daily visitor. Only occasionally do we have more than one. On October 6 and again on December 30, we had a Baltimore Oriole, both of which I took to be females. On October 6, the bird was in the bath and shrubbery. On December 30, it was tapping at the window, whether at its reflection, or trying to get at a dish of pansies in direct line with its line of attack, I did not determine. It did not reappear after I put a smaller dish of pansies on the outside ledge.

Throughout the year we have a number of "banner days" of observing birds during our lunch hour at the dining-room window. Formerly, we ate at one o'clock, but noticed that the birds were appearing for feeding as we were finishing, so we changed to 1:30 p.m. Between that time and 2:15, we are usually rewarded. Our very best Lunch Hour List for 1957 was on December 24, as follows: Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, Towhees (Red-eyed, White-eyed, and *Straw-eyed*), Cardinals, Brown Thrashers, Mockingbird, Myrtle Warblers (fewer this year than usual), Orange-crowned warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Prairie Warbler, White-throated Sparrows (very numerous this year), Blue-headed Vireo, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, English Sparrows, Yellow-throated Warbler. Later in the day, we had two Golden-crowned Kinglets, unusual with us, and later still, the "crowning glory"—the second appearance of the male Western Tanager! We had seen it in the bath and even closer in the shrubbery the day before.

From R. C. Stubbins, Effland, N. C., (Oct. 16, 1957), comes a note with the rather startling title, "A Starling That Crows". This may be a common experience to some birders, but it's a new thing in these parts.

Mrs. Bertha B. Holmes, a secretarial worker, who lives near Cedar Grove, N. C., has been hearing a Starling crow for about a year. At first, it would crow early in the morning, just before leaving the roost; since then, it may be heard about the yard at different times of the day, except during a few weeks in mid summer.

Mrs. Holmes lives in a large old fashioned country home with tall chimneys and extended roof boxing, and it is behind one of the chimneys in the boxing where the Starlings like to winter that Mrs. Holmes first heard the crowing.

The crowing is like that of a bantam rooster. There are no bantams in the neighborhood that might confuse Mrs. Holmes, or her friends that have also heard the crowing Starling. On one occasion Mrs. Holmes was watching a flock of Starlings when *one* of them crowed, but she could not tell which one was doing the crowing!

In a letter dated January 27, 1957, Mr. J. W. Clinard, Hickory, N. C., passes on a clever idea to CBCers: "A friend recently told me of a device to keep water from freezing in a bird bath. It is his own invention, I think.

"He had an old garbage can which had become leaky from the bottom rusting out, but the lid was still good.

"He turned the lid upside down on the can to use for the bird bath, and placed a lighted lantern down in the can or pail.

"Every family does not possess a lantern these days, but I believe a candle would serve the purpose."

CAROLINAS 1957 CHRISTMAS COUNT

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN

The 1957 count in the Carolinas was a good one in most areas. The weather was mild and cloudy, in spots. Two-hundred and six observers in 88 parties turned in 183 species and some 303,600 birds. This amounted to about 32% more individuals than were noted last year by 189 observers. Populations and enthusiasm were up—with some exceptions—over the area as a whole. As usual the big counts were made at the tide-water points. Inland, finches were more numerous than usual but not in spectacular numbers.

The high wildfowl population was impressive, particularly at the Mattamuskeet Refuge. The estimate of Green-winged Teal there jumped from 3,000 last year to 12,000.

The most unexpected find was a small group of Tree Sparrows at Chapel Hill, N. C. This bird is all but unknown in our region and the area will be closely watched for additional observations. Eight Snow Buntings appeared in the Great Smoky Mt. count—a new species for that area. Several of the counts included Evening Grosbeaks.

Aiken, S. C. (same area as last year; 7½ mi. radius centering on Aiken Training Track; swamps and ponds, 35%; fields and pasture, 30%; pine and hardwood forest, 15%; pine woods, 15%; suburbs, 5%.—Dec. 30; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Clear; temp. 33°-55°; wind N, 3-8 m.p.h. Three observers in two parties. Total party hours, 20 (17 on foot, 3 in car); total party miles, 97 (22 on foot, 75 by car). The species count, 66, is 3 above last year's; the individual count of 6898, swelled by 2800 Starlings and 452 Robins, was still well above the usual figure. The increase in ducks is noticeable. A *Horned Grebe*, a *Peregrine Falcon*, 38 *Horned Larks*, a *Gnatcatcher*, 20 *Water Pipits*, 7 *Purple Finches* and 3 *Siskins* are species not on the 1956 list. The single *Solitary Vireo* noted again this year, was not found on any inland count north of Aiken. This was also true last year. Observers: David Elwonger, Robert A. Norris, William Post, Jr. (compiler).

Chapel Hill, N. C. (same area as in last 27 years; oak-hickory climax, 30%; low ground thickets and farmland, 30%; pine forests, 5%; marsh and lake shores, 30%; University campus, 5%). Dec. 22; 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear, temp. 30°-55°; no wind. Nineteen observers in 16 parties. Total party hours, 59 (49 on foot, 10 by car); total party miles, 108 (35 on foot, 73 by car). The count of 76 species beat last year's figure by 11. There was a small increase in the number of individuals. Additional species this year included, a *Bufflehead*, 3 *Canvas-back*, a *Red-breasted Nuthatch*, 40 *Water Pipits*, 8 *Baltimore Orioles*, 800 *Brewer's Blackbirds*, 6 *Am. Tree Sparrows* and 1 *White-crowned Sparrow*. In reply to our request for details on the *Tree Sparrows*, Dr. Blake supplied the following: "The actual identification was made by J. Percy Moore, emeritus professor of zoology at the University of Pennsylvania. I happen to know that he is one of the old time naturalists who were thoroughly acquainted with plants and animals. He noted the breast spots and reddish brown cap. The birds were in company with juncos, which is rather characteristic. Incidentally, the day was dry and there was almost a flat calm all day long." Observers: Mrs. Charles H. Blake, Charles H. Blake (compiler) Roy M. Brown, F. H. Edmister, Mr. & Mrs. Logan Irvin, Mr. & Mrs. R. P. Kaighn, Oliver Orr, Mrs. W. D. Patterson, Bill Rowe, Phillips Russell, W. B. Sanders, Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Sharpe, Mr. & Mrs. M. L. Thompson, Mrs. H. W. Walters, Miss Frances Yocum.

Charleston, S. C. (same area as in preceding years—Bulls Island, adjacent marshes and waterways and mainland northwest across Wando River). Dec. 23: 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear and warm; temp. 51° to 73°; wind NE., 10-14 m.p.h. Nineteen observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours,

47½ (33 on foot, 13½ by car, 1 by boat); total party-miles, 168 (37 on foot, 121 by car, 10 by boat). The total count of 133 species is 5 above last year's figure. The individual tally was down. Last year it was swelled by the inclusion of 2250 Am. Robins. Less than 100 of them were noted this year. The present count gives a better showing of ducks. Most other species were scarce, especially the sparrows. No owl was found. Twenty-eight Purple Finches were seen. Last year there were none. The unexpected find was a Rough-legged Hawk which was "Seen by three good competent observers—Peter Manigault, James Mosimann and Thomas M. Uzzell, Jr. Two of these knew the bird from previous experiences. All noted—large size (with a vulture nearby for comparison), hovering, and that it was in the dark phase and had dark wings with lighter tips."—Observers: T. A. Beckett, III, Edmund Blitch, Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Coleman, Robert D. Edwards, Robert D. Edwards, Jr., T. C. Evans, R. E. Fritzche, Julian Harrison, Peter Manigault, I. S. Metcalf, Sr., I. S. H. Metcalf, James Mosimann, Mr. & Mrs. Ben Owens, John Quinby, Alex Sprunt, Jr., Thomas M. Uzzell, Jr., Ellison A. Williams (compiler). (E. Burnham Chamberlain, long time compiler was visiting his son in Tallahassee, Fla.)—*The Charleston Natural History Society members and friends*)

Charlotte, N. C. (area same as in past 15 years, centering at 7th St., and Briar Creek. However, development this fall has removed all cover around the Johnson lake area). Dec. 28; 6:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Overcast all day, threatening rain; temp. 37° to 52°; wind SSE, 5 m.p.h. water open. Twelve observers in 4 parties. Total party hours, 27 (16 on foot, 11 in car); total party-miles, 125 (21 on foot, 104 by car). The total count of 58 species, 9 above last year's, is identical in number with the ten year average for the area (*The Chat*, Mar. '55). However, through uncertain planning, coverage was poor. Such commonplace species as Turkey and Black Vultures, Bob-white and Screech Owls were missed. The most abundant species: Goldfinches. The most unusual: *Eighty-two* Chipping Sparrows (JRN). Observers: B. R. Chamberlain (compiler), Mrs. B. R. Chamberlain, Norman A. Chamberlain, Mrs. W. G. Cobey, Jack H. Fehon, Mrs. Ray Ford, P. J. Hamilton, Louisa Hamilton, Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Norwood, Mrs. George C. Potter, Mrs. E. J. Presser. (*The Mecklenburg Audubon Club*).

Colleton Neck, Beaufort Co., S. C. (same area as 1953—mainland opposite Pinckney Island back to Colleton River, entirely within Foot Point and Hog Bluff Plantations; salt water creeks, marshes and flats, 25%; fresh water ponds and wooded swamps, 25%; pasture and fields, 15%; pine woods, 15%; deciduous woods, 15%; tidal river, 5%). Dec. 26; 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Overcast; temp. 57° to 75°; wind NNW, 6-18 m.p.h. One observer. Total hours 10½ (9 on foot, 1½ by car); total miles, 40 (8 on foot, 32 by car). The count of 86 species is one above the '53 count by this observer. There were no large numbers of any species. There was a good representation of ducks, but in very small numbers. Possibly the most unexpected bird found was a Yellow-crowned Night Heron (see 1956 Charleston count—*The Chat*, Mar. '57). Observer: William Post, Jr.

Columbia, S. C. (same general area as last years with Saint Andrews section added; deciduous growth in river and creek swamp, 35%; pine woods, 15%; open fields, 20%; lake shores, 15%; urban, 15%). Dec. 28; 6:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Partly cloudy to very low clouds and steady rain from 1:00; temp. 42° to 54°; wind, E. 5 m.p.h. Fourteen observers in five parties. Total party-hours, 45 (35 on foot, 10 in car); total party-miles, 182 (42 on foot, 140 in car). Species, 66, is 1 above last year. The individual count of something over 14 thousand was due largely to 9000 blackbirds. Unusual for Columbia, were a Redhead, a Peregrine Falcon (RO), a Yellow-breasted Chat (GB), and 2 Purple Finches. Observers: Gilbert Bristow (compiler), Gordon Brown, J. W. Chalfant, Wayne Davis, Roger Davis, Mrs. S. E. Hartin, Jimmy Hartin, Mrs. P. B. Hendrix, Miss Mary Nell Koon, Robert

Overing, Fred Sample, Woodrow Senn, Charles I. Simmons, Mrs. Clyde Sisson, Miss Emma Walker. (*Columbia Bird Club*).

Eastover, S. C. (same territory as in former years). Dec. 30; Daylight to dark. Clear, temp. 38° to 58°; humidity, 77%; wind, NE-E, gentle to fresh. Three observers in one party. Party hours, appx. 10. Party miles about 25 (24 by car, 1 on foot). Total species, 64—some higher than usual. Individual count, 8835 due, as in the Columbia count, to 5500 black-birds, 1000 Starlings and 1000 Common Cowbirds. Outstanding species of the count: 2 Bewick's Wrens, 2 Purple Finches, 1 Pine Siskin. Observers: Mrs. W. H. Faver (compiler), Mrs. Clyde Sisson, Miss Linda Sisson.

Elkin, N. C. (Elkin-Ronda, same area as in last several years) Dec. 27; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fair; temp. 24° to mild in p.m. wind, SW, very light. Water open. Seven observers in 2 parties. (hours and miles not indicated). Fifty-six species, 2416 individuals. The count included 10 Evening Grosbeaks, 39 Purple Finches and 24 White-crowned Sparrows. Three Pine Siskins were seen, Dec. 29. Observers: Harold Click, Jeff Earp, Linville Hendren, Tom Hendren, E. M. Hodel, L. Petree, Wendell P. Smith.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park (Tenn.-N.C. 7½ mile radius centered 2 miles south of Cades Cove and including Laurel Lake on north, Fontana Dam on south, Chilhowee Reservoir on west, and Spence Field on state line on east); open farm land, 15%; old fields, 25%, forests, 30%; reservoirs and stream courses, 30%. Dec. 22; 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear to partly cloudy; temp. 25° to 65°; wind mostly S, up to 25 m.p.h. ground bare at all altitudes and well saturated; mostly open water. Thirty-two observers in ten parties. Total party-hours, 80 (67 on foot, 13 in car); total party-miles, 105 (47 on foot, 58 by car). Sixty-two species—9 more than last winter. Due to shifting area to include more water, many more duck species were present. Turkeys, missed last year, were found (5). Ravens, found last year, were not seen this time. The ratio of Golden-crowned to Ruby-crowned Kinglets this year was 135 to 3. The ratio last winter was 46 to 5. On last year's count there were no Purple Finches and no Pine Siskins. The present count includes 44 of the former and 358 of the latter. Eight **Snow Buntings** were satisfactorily observed by Mrs. Garlinghouse, Mssrs. Highbaugh and Pardue (Pres. of ETOS). This is the first record of Snow Buntings for the Great Smoky National Park. They were seen 1½ miles north of Thunderhead in the state of Tennessee. Observers: Jane Briscoe, Mary Ruth Chiles, John Elson, Mary Enloe, Elizabeth French, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Garlinghouse, Vernon C. Gilbert, Jr., Dave Highbaugh, Phillip Huff, Audrey Kaiman, Mr. & Mrs. H. Frank Leonhard, Henry W. Lix, Amy Manous, J. T. Mengel, Mrs. Alice D. Miller, Mr. & Mrs. R. A. Monroe, Mrs. E. E. Overton, Paul Pardue, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth B. Sanders, Mrs. Prince Sluder, Mr. & Mrs. L. F. Smith, Jr., Arthur Stupka (compiler), Dr. James T. Tanner, Dr. & Mrs. S. R. Tipton, Ralph J. Zaenglein. (*Tennessee Ornithological Society, National Park Service and guests*).

Greensboro, N. C. (area same as in preceding years, centering ½ mile SW of WBIG transmitter). Dec. 28; 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Partly cloudy, overcast, sun breaking through infrequently; temp. 36° to 50°. Twenty-six observers in 13 parties. Total party hours, 88; total party-miles, 229 (43 on foot, 186 by car). The count of 81 species was 1 under last year's tally. The individual count was some 50% above the figure turned in last year. Some 6700 of the present count was represented by Starlings, but in general there was a noticeable increase in most species. The finches were especially plentiful. Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins, not found last year were noted this year. Observers: Mrs. W. Carr, Miss Inez Coldwell, L. A. Crawford, Miss Charlotte Dawley, Mrs. R. D. Douglas, Mrs. J. L. Hedge, Miss Sidney Holmes, James Mattocks, Mrs. Robert McCoy, Miss Ethel McNairy, Mrs. Franklin McNutt, Mr. & Mrs. W. P. Milton, Miss Ida Mitchell, Mr. & Mrs. George Perrett, Dr. & Mrs. C. I. Reed, Dr. Hollis

Rogers, Miss Etta Schiffman, Mrs. Edith Settans, Dr. & Mrs. A. D. Shaftesbury, George A. Smith (compiler), Thomas Street and Mrs. Charles Swart. (*The Piedmont Bird Club.*)

Henderson, N. C. (same area as in previous counts). Dec. 27; Fair and cold; temp. 27° to 56°; wind 4 m.p.h. at noon. Hours and miles not indicated. Six observers in two parties. Species, 52; individuals, 2207. Five more species than last year. Both Horned and Pied-billed Grebes were seen this year and missed last year. An unusually large number of hawk species were found. Golden-crown Kinglets were more numerous by far than last year. Ten Evening Grosbeaks were present, Dec. 30. On Jan. 3, a Yellow-breasted Chat was in Mrs. Bachman's yard at about 8:00 a.m. and again at about 11:00 a.m. Observers: Mrs. A. W. Bachman (compiler), Annie Gray Burroughs, Mr. John Burroughs, Misses Mariel Gary and Garnette Myers, Mrs. G. E. Rose.

Jefferson, N. C. formerly Todd, N. C. (same area as in previous counts; 7½ mile radius centering at James Miller's, near Todd). Dec. 29; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear; temp. 25° to 45°; wind, W at 4-5 m.p.h.; ground on north sides frozen all day. Five observers in 3 parties. Total party hours, 38 (24 on foot, 14 in car); total party-miles, 67 (18 on foot, 37 by car, 12 by jeep). Total species, 29. Individuals, 515. Four more species than last year. Birds not found on previous counts: Pied-billed Grebe, Red-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren and Pine Siskin. Most unusual observations: 3 House Wrens, seen by two parties independently—including Dr. J. Frank Randall and Mrs. Hurt. Five Pileated Woodpeckers seen in the area during count period. Observers: Mrs. A. Burman Hurt (compiler), John R. Jackson (age 9), James Miller, J. Frank Randall, Wendell P. Smith.

Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, New Holland, N. C. (Same area as in previous counts, centering near Mattamuskeet Lodge and including most of Mattamuskeet Lake, surrounding marshes, woods, and farmlands, and portions of Swanquarter Refuge, fields and thickets, 20%; pine woods and swamps, 25%; freshwater lake, 40%; fresh marsh, 5%; brackish water bays, 5% and brackish marsh, 5%.—Dec. 29; 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; clear to partly cloudy; temperature 45° to 62°; wind NW; 5-20 m.p.h. Ground bare, water open. Four observers in two parties, total party hours, 20 (7 on foot, 10 by car, 3 by boat); total party miles, 124 (7 on foot, 97 by car, 20 by boat). Total species, 97; individuals, 205,797. This excellent report is commented upon by the compiler as follows: "Better coverage of the count area (but still wholly inadequate) accounts for the increase in species observed this year. A boat trip covering portions of Swanquarter Refuge produced 15 species not usually observed in the lake area. Notable finds were the Great Black-backed Gull, Gannet and Orange-crowned Warbler. Waterfowl numbers are estimates of birds actually in the count area, not on the entire refuge. The refuge population of waterfowl this year has been the best on record." Observers: W. G. Cahoon, Bill Joyner, R. R. Rudolph (compiler), Robert Wolff.

New London, N. C. (7½ miles radius centering 2 miles NE of Badin, including High Rock Lake, Yadkin River, Badin Lake, Morrow Mt. State Park, City Reservoirs, Albemarle, Badin and New London. Mixed deciduous woodlands, 25%; open fields and farmland, 27%; fresh water ponds and lake shores, 25%; lakes and rivers, 15%; marsh, 3%; pine woods, 2%; suburbs, 3%). Dec. 30; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Clear becoming slightly cloudy in the late afternoon temp. 25° to 50°; wind NW, 2-5 m.p.h. Water open, visibility excellent. Sixteen observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 37 (20 on foot, 17 by car); total party miles, 257 (19 on foot, 238 by car). The 69 species were 3 above last year's count. The number of individuals was somewhat down, due to much smaller counts of Juncos and Starlings. Five Evening Grosbeaks were noted and a single White-crowned Sparrow was found. Observers: Vera Cook, Ervin Doplin, Susan Greene, M. M. Haitcock, Barbara Hatley, Gail Mahathey, Donald Maner, Tommy Morris,

Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Norwood, Wayne Smith, John Trott (compiler), Jane Turner, Anne Whitlock, Mrs. Vivian Whitlock, Mike Wilder.

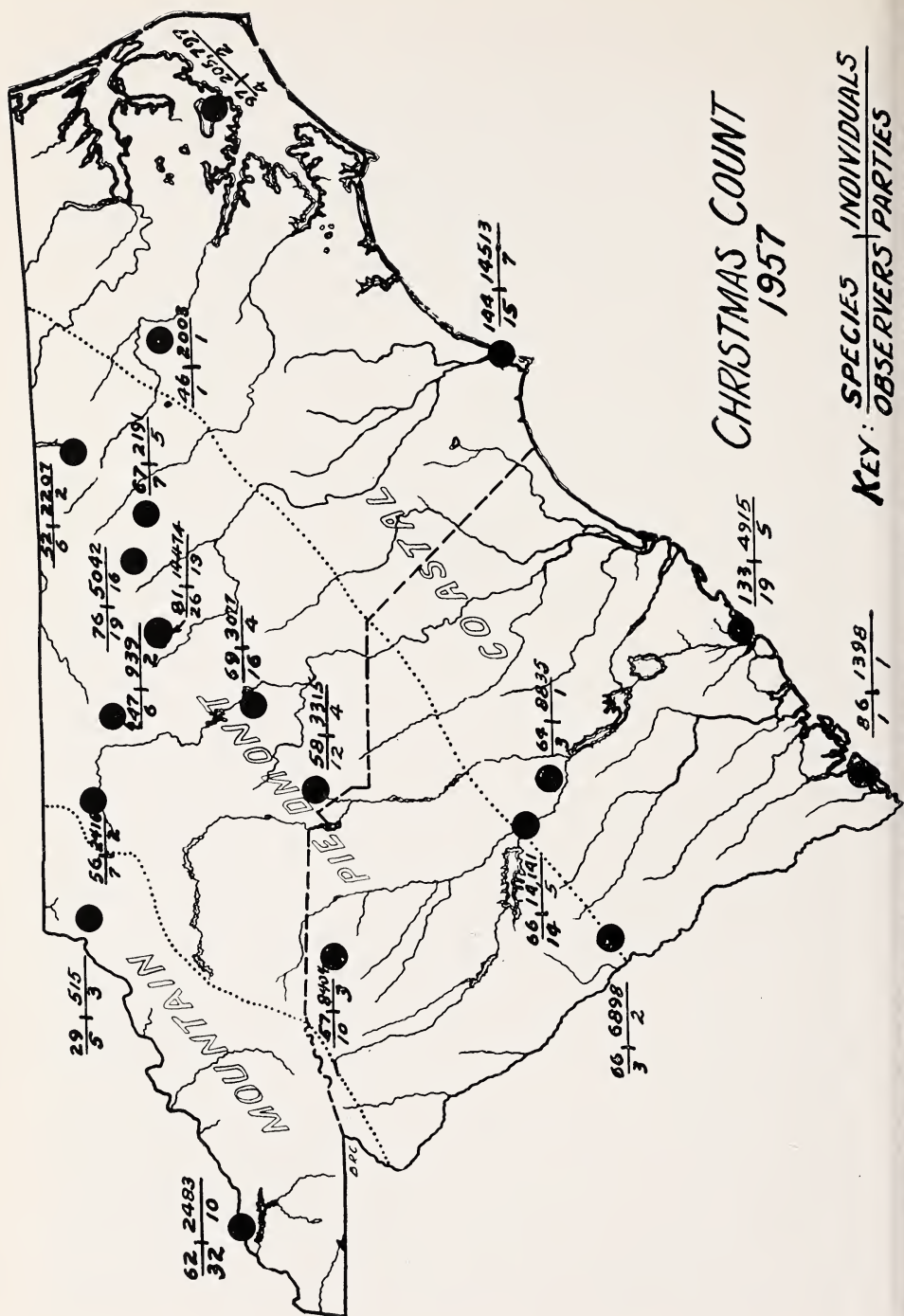
Raleigh, N. C. (Practically same area as in previous counts. Lakes and small ponds, 25%; mixed pine and deciduous woodland, 40%; deciduous woodland, 20%; open fields, 15%). Dec. 21; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear all day, NE wind in a.m., 6 m.p.h.; temp. 40° to 57°; ground bare, water open. Seven observers in five parties. Total party-hours, 48 (40 on foot, 8 by car); total party-miles, 48 (28 on foot, 20 by car). Sixty-seven species (9 more than last year). Individuals slightly less than last year. Possibly the best find was a single Red-breasted Nuthatch. Both Purple Finches and Siskins are in this year's count. Observers: David Adams, Harry T. Davis, Philip Davis, Charlotte Hilton Green, J. F. Greene, Mrs. D. L. Wray, D. L. Wray (compiler).

Rocky Mount, N. C. (same area as in last several years). Jan. 1: 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wet with intermittent rain until late p.m. Wind, light; temp. 40° to 55°. One observer. Total hours, appx. 9; total miles, 130½ (½ on foot, 130 by car). Forty-six species—3 less than last year. A few more duck species were noted than usual but there were fewer Grackles, Redwings, Killdeer and Horned Larks. They were either absent or dispersed due to a poor peanut crop. J. W. E. (Bill) Joyner.

Spartanburg, S. C. (7½ mile radius including Zimmerman, Pierce and Johnson Lakes, Sewage Disposal Plant. Open farmlands, 15%; town suburbs, 20%; mixed woodlands, 20%; fresh water lakes, ponds and marshes, 45%). Dec. 29; 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 36° to 50°. Wind, SW, 1-8 m.p.h. Ten observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 17 (13 by foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 43 (4 on foot, 39 by car). Species about the same as last year. Individual count was swelled by an estimated 6500 Starlings. Unusual species: Purple Finches and Pine Siskins. Seen in area during count period: Barn Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch. Observers: Gabriel Cannon, Louisa Carlisle, Harold E. Correll, Ruth Crick (compiler), Paul E. Crosby, Margaret Hammond, Mrs. Thorny Sill, Mrs. Louise Spivey, Dr. & Mrs. John O. Watkins.

Wilmington, N. C. (Same areas as in past 12 winter counts, centering at Myrtle Grove Junction—formerly called Monkey's Junction). Dec. 28; 6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cloudy all day; temp. 38° to 69°; wind SSE, 7-8 m.p.h., gusts to 15 m.p.h. Total party-hours, 76 (53 on foot, 23 in car); total party-miles, 369 (36 on foot, 333 by car). Fifteen observers in 7 parties. Total species, 144; total individuals, 14,513. Although Wilmington's count was 14 short of the last year figure, it was still the best count numerically, in the Carolinas. Mrs. Appleberry blamed the "run-of-the-mill" results upon the mildness of the weather—a new angle, but doubtless with merit. A *Western Grebe* was satisfactorily observed by experienced observers, Mrs. Polly Mebane and Mrs. Mary Ulrich. A Ground Dove was seen at Orton Plantation by the Irvines. Fox and Pine-woods Sparrows were noted "actually singing." Observers: Cecil Appleberry, Mrs. Edna Appleberry (compiler), Mrs. Mary Baker, Barney Barnhill, Vernon Collins, Clifford Comeau, John Irvine, Sr., John Irvine, Jr., Bill James, Harry Lattimer, Jr., Greg Massey, Mrs. Polly Mebane, Miss Roxana Mebane, Bill Roe, Mrs. Mary Ulrich. (*The Wilmington Natural Science Club*).

Winston-Salem, N. C. (area same as last year including Salem Lake, the Forsythe County Farm, Tanglewood Park, Reynolda and the Wake Forest campus). Jan. 1; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fair; temp. 39° to 46°. Wind, S & SW, 0-10 m.p.h. Six observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 16½ (12 on foot, 4½ in car); total party-miles, 30 (10 on foot, 20 by car.) Forty-seven species, 939 individuals. The species count was identical with that of last year—as to number. The present count includes 3 Red-breasted Nuthatches. Observers: Dr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Simpson, Lucia Simpson, Mrs. Alex Sloan, Dr. & Mrs. Merrill Spencer (Robert H. Witherington, compiler).



CHRISTMAS COUNT 1957

KEY: SPECIES | INDIVIDUALS
OBSERVERS | PARTIES

Christmas Count
1957

	Colleton Neck, S. C.	Charleston, S. C.	Wilmington, N. C.	Mattamuskeet, N. C.	Aiken, S. C.	Rocky Mount, N. C.	Columbia, S. C.	Eastover, S. C.	Spartanburg, S. C.	Chapel Hill, N. C.	Henderson, N. C.	Raleigh, N. C.	New London, N. C.	Charlotte, N. C.	Greensboro, N. C.	Winston-Salem, N. C.	Elkin, N. C.	Jefferson, N. C.	Gr. Smoky Mts., N. C.
Common Loon	2	4	104	12	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Red-throated Loon		1	47	18	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Horned Grebe	2	56	57	18	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Western Grebe	15	15	10	25	6	2	3	1	4	4	1	3	6	4	24	3	1	1	13
Pied-billed Grebe	1	18	18	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Brown Pelican																			
Gannet			32	4															
D-c Cormorant		7	51																
Water-Turkey		15	2																
Great Blue Heron	1	15	35	20		4	6	1	1	3	1	1	6	4	1		1		8
Common Egret	1	5	27	84	1														
Snowy Egret	27	53	1	8															
Tricolored Heron	4	16	9																
Little Blue Heron	19	30	8																
Green Heron			2																
Black-cr. Nt. Heron			7	15															
Yellow-cr. Nt. Heron	1																		
American Bittern		1	1																
Whistling Swan	2		506	3,500		17			8				27			80	225		2
Canada Goose				60,000															
Snow Goose																			
Blue Goose	2	433+	750	10,000			1		40	15		22	20		62	23	100		24
Mallard																			
Black Duck	2	32	95	12,000						20		3	2		5	8	16		
Gadwall	3	70	83	3,000															
American Widgeon	67	20	411	10,000		80	1	1			26			1	16		1		
Pintail		150+	146	30,000							10								
Green-winged Teal		55	201	12,000		1									1				
Blue-winged Teal		8	4																
Shoveler		45	2	2,500		1	1	4		6					2	1			
Wood Duck			8																
Redhead		55	190	4,000	28		1		9	38		6	1	1	430	9			100
Ring-necked Duck	2		39	1,500		1	39	98							9		1		
Canvas-back						2						8			6				
Scaup (so)	28	8	44	10,000	1	2				12		11							4

Christmas Count
1957

	Colleton Neck, S. C.	Charleston, S. C.	Wilmington, N. C.	Mattamuskeet, N. C.	Aiken, S. C.	Rocky Mount, N. C.	Columbia, S. C.	Eastover, S. C.	Spartanburg, S. C.	Chapel Hill, N. C.	Henderson, N. C.	Raleigh, N. C.	New London, N. C.	Charlotte, N. C.	Greensboro, N. C.	Winston-Salem, N. C.	Elkin, N. C.	Jefferson, N. C.	Gr. Smoky Mts., N. C.
Common Golden-eye	23	19	39	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Bufflehead .....	..	..	..	330	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	22	..	1	..	1
Old Squaw .....	..	3	2	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
White-winged Scoter .....	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Surf Scoter .....	..	14	4	70	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
American Scoter .....	..	14	10	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ruddy Duck	5	100+	4	15,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	..	4	..	..	..	10
Hooded Merganser	12	8	27	2	..	7	..	..	..	30	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	5
Red-breasted Merganser	132	12	16	16	..	..	..	..	..	46	..	..	43	..	2	..	..	..	7
Turkey Vulture	14	36	2	25	7	..	..	2	3	17	6	4	14	..	7	5	7	..	..
Black Vulture	24	80	2	2	9	..	1	6	..	..	11	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Sharp-shinned Hawk .....	..	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	12	1	..	..	1
Cooper's Hawk .....	..	3	2	..	..	..	..	3	1	1	1	..	2	1	2	..	..	..	1
Red-tailed Hawk	2	4	3	1	..	..	..	..	1	8	6	4	12	3	10	..	2	..	6
Red-shouldered Hawk .....	..	4	4	2	..	4	4	1	1	1	4	..	2	..	7	1	1	1	1
Rough-legged Hawk .....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bald Eagle .....	..	6	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marsh Hawk	2	11	7	11	1	..	2	..	2	1	..	..	11	..	1	..	2	..	..
Osprey .....	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Peregrine Falcon .....	..	3	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sparrow Hawk	4	4	18	27	3	11	11	2	3	3	9	6	11	3	5	1	2	..	..
Rufed Grouse .....	..	9	32	20	..	..	17	11	12	23	25	10	8	..	10	..	6	..	8
Bob-white .....	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Turkey .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
King Rail .....	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Clapper Rail	8	8	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sora Rail .....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Gallinule .....	..	..	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
American Coot .....	..	51	336	9,000	..	..	2	..	..	30	..	8	..	..	69	..	1	..	150
Am. Oystercatcher .....	..	68	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Piping Plover .....	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ringed Plover	30	15	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wilson's Plover .....	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Killdeer	8	36	25	7	316	49	11	27	45	59	24	5	31	138	91	12	175	..	28
Black-bellied Plover	66	29	133	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ruddy Turnstone	22	56	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Am. Woodcock .....	..	..	3	5	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Christmas Count
1957

	Colleton Neck, S. C.	Charleston, S. C.	Wilmington, N. C.	Mattamuskeet, N. C.	Aiken, S. C.	Rocky Mount, N. C.	Columbia, S. C.	Eastover, S. C.	Spartanburg, S. C.	Chapel Hill, N. C.	Henderson, N. C.	Raleigh, N. C.	New London, N. C.	Charlotte, N. C.	Greensboro, N. C.	Winston-Salem, N. C.	Elkin, N. C.	Jefferson, N. C.	Gr. Smoky Mts., N. C.
Common Sturgeon	1	..	4	9	..	..	3	7	..	..	1	4	1	3	..	..	..	..	..
Spotted Sandpiper	1	..	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Willet	31	8	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Greater Yellow-legs	2	2	19	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lesser Yellow-legs	..	..	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Knot	..	20	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Least Sandpiper	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dunlin	71	60	366	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Eastern Dowitcher	24	27	57	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Semipalmated Sandpiper	75	63	63	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Western Sandpiper	60	80	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sanderling	..	20	77	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gr. Black-backed Gull	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Herring Gull	1	23	308	30	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ring-billed Gull	47	13	885	35	..	..	7	..	..	..	10	..	36	..	2	..	..	..	..
Bonaparte's Gull	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foster's Tern	..	..	59	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Tern	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Royal Tern	..	1	13	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Black Skimmer	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mourning Dove	90	83	66	65	4	132	68	49	195	108	50	18	109	166	160	21	26	..	45
Ground Dove	..	4	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Barn Owl	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Screech Owl	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Great Horned Owl	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Barred Owl	..	..	9	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Belted Kingfisher	6	10	16	3	3	1	5	1	..	7	8	4	2	8	8	..	1	3	5
Yellow-shafted Flicker	3	26	58	19	14	13	60	12	12	26	9	12	22	14	68	2	4	..	10
Pileated Woodpecker	2	18	2	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Red-bellied Woodpecker	11	22	21	4	7	10	3	4	6	16	..	8	8	11	41	1	3	..	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	..	..	6	1	3	..	17	5	3	8	1	4	1	2	1	..	..	..	..
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	..	46	4	4	3	8	2	3	17	4	5	4	4	19	2	4	1	7
Hairy Woodpecker	3	7	4	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2	2	1	2	7	..	1	..	8
Downy Woodpecker	2	25	14	5	4	3	17	1	4	20	3	8	18	13	51	3	12	5	19
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	..	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Eastern Phoebe	14	25	15	7	7	2	15	3	5	19	..	2	8	6	18	2	13	12	12
Horned Lark	..	..	..	38	..	..	..	44	..	..	..	..	55	31	124	..	..	..	18
Tree Swallow	..	..	90	..	24	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blue Jay	10	46	112	..	..	8	280	36	49	42	25	28	25	44	179	14	11	52	26

Christmas Count
1957

	Colleton Neck, S. C.	Charleston, S. C.	Wilmington, N. C.	Mattamuskeet, N. C.	Aiken, S. C.	Rocky Mount, N. C.	Columbia, S. C.	Eastover, S. C.	Spartanburg, S. C.	Chapel Hill, N. C.	Henderson, N. C.	Raleigh, N. C.	New London, N. C.	Charlotte, N. C.	Greensboro, N. C.	Winston-Salem, N. C.	Elkin, N. C.	Jefferson, N. C.	Gr. Smoky Mts., N. C.
American Crow	22	116	122	150	25	79	70	11	41	99	45	15	77	69	202	35	590	125	254
Fish Crow		16	12	29			70												
Carolina Chickadee	8	62	50	12	9	11	61	2	29	100	36	22	66	32	215	25	22	4	170
Tufted Titmouse		53	86		21	11	17	3	13	71	18	27	8	30	172	9	19	3	44
White-breasted Nuthatch ..		2						1		14	3	6	12	3	54	1	11		2
Red-breasted Nuthatch ..			5							1	1	1			3	3	1	5	10
Brown-headed Nuthatch ..	3	28	104	9	4	1	7	2	20	10	7	2	15	10	20				
Brown Creeper		5	1				1	1		6	6	1	1	1	9	3	2		2
House Wren	2	6	17	3	2					2		2			7		1	3	4
Winter Wren		3	3																
Bewick's Wren								2											
Carolina Wren	3	35	65	12	16	26	54	6	14	63	20	20	28	23	134	5	15	19	26
Marsh Wren (Long-billed) ..	2	1	66	1															
Sedge Wren (Short-billed) ..	10	41	134	23	20	16	64	11	37	78	36	26	70	60	165	22	34	3	8
Mockingbird	1	6	12	7								1							
Cardinal	2	10	44	2	13		34	3	9	5	5	6	1	3	3				
Brown Thrasher	13	92	1,297	600	432	95	324	19	175	286	61	9	74	104	64	1	34		65
Am. Robin																			
Hermit Thrush		11	5		2		10	1	2	5	5	2	3	2	6		4		5
Common Bluebird	16	71	120	10	15	36	137	48	63	157	60	27	84	123	213	27	39	5	49
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		3	6		1														
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	17	26		13		47	9	3	8	116	12	12	6	32	26	2		135
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8	83	95	6	24	2	71	13	38	12	22	9	30	11	9		3		3
Water Pipit	5		55	8	20		6	101	14	40		8	64		40				
Cedar Waxwing		7	109	8	52	14	43			117	30		50	115	98	16	135		12
Starke	2	12	10	52	2	13	27	14	15	15	16	7	19	20	34	7	9		
Common Starling	5	56	756	550	612	97	390	1,009	6,500	280	565	728	361	260	6,744	237	169	6	124
White-eyed Vireo		2	1																
Solitary Vireo		6			1														
Black and White Warbler ..		2																	
Orange-crowned Warbler ..		1																	
Myrtle Warbler		249+	569	30	19	11	14	3	2	46	19	6	14	5	64	3	9		10
Yellow-throated Warbler ..		6																	
Pine Warbler		95	67	1		7	45	9	14	22	9	2	34	9	20	1			
Prairie Warbler		1																	
Palm Warbler (sp)	1	6	19	5	3														

Christmas Count
1957

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Louisiana Water-Thrush	1
Yellow-throat	2	3	23
Yellow-breasted Chat	1
House Sparrow	4	185	80	60	237	388	75	73	55	51	421	36	65	576	92	28	..	20
Common Meadowlark	45	79	405	70	101	58	596	258	102	269	87	58	294	292	300	26	6	3	50
Red-winged Blackbird ..	8	602+	1,439	20,000	162	..	8,334	2,500	62	1	17	..	16	84	186	..	..	..	..
Baltimore Oriole .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rusty Blackbird .....	..	..	..	..	3	..	776	3,000	12	50	..	..	..	..	70	..	..	..	..
Brewer's Blackbird .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	800	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Boat-tailed Grackle	76	98	232	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Grackle	12	50	35	145	1,900	..	502	100	283	25	..	..	15	8	..	..	..	..	..
Common Cowbird	7	1	325	2	50	..	29	1,000	5	57	..	..	..	..	25	..	..	..	..
Cardinal	12	79	122	37	60	19	202	24	74	126	38	38	120	74	302	13	41	43	25
Evening Grosbeak .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Purple Finch .....	..	28	61	..	7	..	2	2	48	70	13	..	5	20	89	13	10	..	44
Pine Siskin .....	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	1	25	..	33	79	27	54	25	..	13	358
Am. Goldfinch	5	101	299	75	26	80	288	43	55	143	95	24	235	613	226	32	67	14	116
Eastern Towhee	13	96	157	8	35	10	163	12	29	28	19	18	14	16	44	5	12	4	5
Savannah Sparrow	6	23	139	28	44	10	15	40	15	..	..	6	11	2	4	..	..	..	..
Grasshopper Sparrow .....	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Henslow's Sparrow .....	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sharp-tailed Sparrow .....	..	3	13	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Seaside Sparrow .....	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vesper Sparrow .....	..	21	37	..	13	..	..	32	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	8	..
Lark Sparrow .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bachman's Sparrow .....	..	4	8	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Slate-colored Junco	8	97	96	8	33	87	64	24	76	610	243	168	333	431	872	81	206	78	182
Tree Sparrow .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chipping Sparrow	20	19	116	..	2	10	102	17	9	..	..	..	2	82	2	..	..	..	..
Field Sparrow	35	32	119	17	137	42	158	30	47	67	45	56	57	82	533	14	29	52	102
White-crowned Sparrow ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	24	..	..
White-throated Sparrow ..	47	158	292	100	119	175	404	79	120	506	175	198	177	177	766	10	78	1	55
Fox Sparrow .....	..	11	7	10	..	..	1	1	1	5	..	6	..	..	1	..	25	1	..
Swamp Sparrow	21	25	112	4	52	..	12	17	43	2	4	8	3	2	53	3	..	..	5
Song Sparrow	16	58	288	42	73	25	117	19	43	139	142	36	87	25	518	20	32	48	43
Snow Bunting .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Number of species	86	133	144	97	66	46	66	66	57	76	52	67	69	58	81	47	56	29	62
Number of individuals ...	1,398	4,915	14,513	205,797	6,898	2,003	14,141	8,869	8,404	5,042	2,207	2,191	3,077	3,315	14,474	939	2,416	515	2,483

Midwinter Field Trip at Mattamuskeet

Dame Weather, although somewhat cold and windy, smiled on 84 birders from the Carolinas and other states who gathered for the midwinter field trip at Lake Mattamuskeet, N. C., January 17-19.

The meeting formally got underway Friday night in the hall of Mattamuskeet Lodge, headquarters. President Charlotte Hilton Green presided and officially welcomed CBCers and their guests. Willie G. Cahoon, Manager of Mattamuskeet and Swan Quarter National Wildlife Refuges, then gave a sketch of the refuges and what has been accomplished since their inception in the early thirties; of particular interest was the fact that the goose population in 1934-35 was only 15,000 as compared to 105,000 in 1957-58 as well as about 185,000 ducks. Royston Rudolph, Refuge Management Biologist, showed color slides of the refuge that emphasized what is being done to control aquatic vegetation and other factors influencing the water-fowl population through scientific management.

Saturday was field trip day. Three boat trips, on the refuge cruiser "Redhead" commanded by Captain Earl Basnight, into Swan Quarter and other bays were most popular. A good variety of sea ducks were seen, and notable were the Great Black-backed Gulls. The other planned trip, under the direction of Manager Cahoon, was a morning and afternoon tour by refuge truck of the east end of Lake Mattamuskeet. Blue and Snow Geese were the main attraction there.

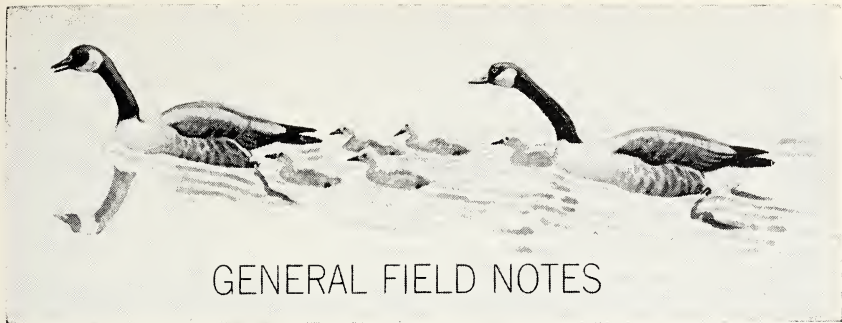
At supper Saturday night The Honorable Ross L. Leffler, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife, welcomed members to the refuge and brought good news of the success of his department in saving some jeopardized public land from exploitation by private interests, Mr. Leffler happened to be in the area on an inspection trip.

Saturday night a recap of the day revealed 102 species; a Gannet and the Great Black-backed Gulls were among the most notable, Mr. Rudolph showed slides of birds in the Lacassine and Sabine Refuges in Louisiana, and Leon Ballance showed some most interesting slides which gave members a complete picture of the economy of Hyde County in which Mattamuskeet is located.

The success of the trip was due to the untiring and all-out efforts of Mr. Cahoon and his refuge staff; in addition to those already mentioned, Mrs. Sally Fisher and the drivers of the truck contributed to this success. Our lodge hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Dick O'Neal, saw that all members were comfortable, and the meals were good. The attractive Chat name cards were courtesy of the Mecklenburg Audubon Society.



Photograph by Willie G. Cahoon, Fish & Wildlife Service



GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. B. Chamberlain, Robert Holmes, Jr., Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

As this issue is being "put to sleep"—in mid-January—available reports indicate severe weather ahead. Possibly the birds have sensed this. Possibly the food situation alone has determined their action, or possibly other factors have been responsible. In any event, it seems safe to predict that the winter of 1957-58 will be one of deep southward penetration of several species. Purple Finches and Pine Siskins are here now in unusual quantity and distribution. We are fairly accustomed to them. The bird that will create excitement is the Evening Grosbeak. Scattered notes on hand record it south to Aiken, S. C., in the upper coastal region and to McClellanville on the S. C. coast. A detailed account of their stay with us will be prepared when the story is complete. Let us know all you can of all the Evening Grosbeaks that come your way and, particularly, what they eat, how they behave and when they leave.

And another thing. Never before, in the long history of bird study, has such an opportunity been offered as the one awaiting us at the base of our TV towers during the fall migration. It isn't too early for each club to lay plans for action this fall. Instead of wringing our hands over the casualties we will do well to get out and examine the thousands of specimens that are laid before us. Surely, if anything is to be done about it, it will be done through knowledge of what is going on and not by tears.

Brown Pelicans Nesting Again in Pamlico Sound, N. C.—On Aug. 7, 1957, Alvin P. Noltemeier, Pilot, U. S. Game Management Agent, Washington, N. C., took me to Shell Island near Ocracoke (4½ mi. WSW) in a Fish and Wildlife sea-plane. On Aug. 6, 1947 I had made the same trip by boat (*Chat*, 11 (4):72, 1947). This was the first year since 1947 that I have had definite reports that Brown Pelicans were again nesting there but in all probability they have, although I do not have proof of that.

In 1947 there were 14 nests, 33 immature and 55 mature Pelicans seen on or from the island. This year there were about 35 nests, 87 immature and 162 mature birds. The nesting season had been earlier this year than in '47, as many of the young Pelicans had already reached flying stage on the date of observation.

Mr. Noltemeier had made several trips to Shell Island this summer and reported a good hatch of Royal Terns and Laughing Gulls. We saw approximately 1200 Royals and 150 Common Terns and 4500 Laughing Gulls. There had been a few Black Skimmers, Gull-billed Terns and Oystercatchers around during the summer. Doubtless there were Caspian Terns in the flocks but time did not permit a thorough survey.

While banding immature terns, mottled black and orange legs and feet were noted in two of them—they had the dusky cap of the Royal.

I understand that the U. S. Park Service and N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission have made some movies and still shots of the Shell Island Pelican colony and Mr. Noltemeier also has made some excellent colored movies there.—ROBERT L. WOLFF, *Greenville, N. C., Aug. 18, 1957.*

Least Bittern Swimming Under Water.—A pair of Least Bitterns spent the summer of 1956, (first seen on June 12, last seen in early August) on Forest Lake, Fayetteville, N. C., where they were observed many times by Mrs. L. E. Whitfield, president of the Fayetteville Audubon Society, and by myself. Although they appeared to have a nesting site to which they repaired after each period of feeding in the clumps of spatterdock and Alligator Weed (*Achyranthes*) and other water grasses on the opposite shore, about 150 feet distant, they were never seen with young birds.

On July 17, I watched one of the bitterns water-bathing on a sandy point which jutted into shallow water in which the bird stood while washing its breast, belly and wings with the aid of its bill. The bird was about 100 feet away from me and I had my Bausch and Lomb 7x35 binoculars trained on it, when it disappeared. Since the bird could only have been out of my sight by going underwater, I felt sure that it had submerged, and this appeared to be confirmed by an incident on July 21. On that day, two boys were fishing near the usual feeding grounds of the two bitterns, and the birds were not seen. More than an hour after arriving at the site from which I usually watched the bitterns, I saw something appear on the water's surface, about thirty feet out from the grassy point of land which the birds often used as a path to what may have been their nesting area. It looked to me like the rounded back and the tail of a fish swimming partly out of water, just showing above the surface. In a moment a third protuberance appeared above the water line, which was the top of the head of the bittern which continued to swim without raising its head or bill above water, to the grassy point of land where it disappeared into the rushes.

About a week later, Mr. and Mrs. Whitfield were on their small boat dock, watching one of the bitterns which was feeding in a clump of spatterdock not far distant. Mrs. Whitfield saw a submerged swimming form approach the clump and then it disappeared into the vegetation where, a moment later they saw two bitterns feeding together.

It is probable that the water, in the two latter cases, though reasonably shallow, was too deep for the bird to be walking on the bottom, or on vegetation, for in this event, the bird's body motions would have so indicated and the tail, back and head would probably not have appeared in an even line on the water surface.

In *Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds* (1926) A. C. Bent cites records of the Green Heron which can dive underwater for food; and of gallinules and certain species of rails which can submerge to elude their pursuers. Mrs. Whitfield and I will be glad to hear if anyone else has seen Least Bitterns swimming underwater, or knows of records of like incidents.—DORIS C. (MRS. ROSCOE, JR.) HAUSER, 302 Green Street, Fayetteville, N. C.

Early Am. Widgeons: Behavior.—On August 21, 1957, I was on my way to the Roanoke and Tar River Gun Club in Bertie Co., N. C. The Roanoke River is possibly five miles to the north of Scotland Neck in Halifax County. After I had crossed the river bridge and passed the

swamp, I came to a pasture on the right side of the highway with a herd of cattle. In the pasture with the cattle there were two flocks of Am. Widgeons *grazing just like geese*. I drove up the highway and turned around and went back and watched them for ten minutes with my glasses. These ducks did not seem to be afraid of the car, but as soon as I stepped out on the ground they flew further back in the pasture away from the road. I tried to count them and to the best knowledge there were over 120 of them. On Aug. 28, I went back to the Club and there was a smaller flock of about 25 Widgeons grazing in the same field. The time was roughly the same on both days—around five p.m. I feel that Aug. 21 is an early date for them in this section.—JOHN THOMPSON, *Rocky Mount, N. C.*

Banding on the Upper N. C. Coast.—In an effort to have North Carolina participate in "Operation Recovery," CBC Members Bill Joyner, John Thompson and Harry T. Davis drove to Duck and Caffey's Inlet on the evening of September 13, 1957.

This point was selected as a likely place to intercept some of the many small birds that would be flying southward along this sandy beach strip at this time. Most of the strip is covered with sparse grasses and there is a margin on the Currituck Sound side with shrub-like growth up to 30 feet high.

The equipment taken was four Japanese Mist Nets—25 feet long and 8 feet high—and an ample supply of bird bands. For the beach birds the nets were stretched on poles along the sandy beaches where the birds were feeding. For the other species the nets were placed high where there were paths through the sound-side bushes. The procedure was to move from one net to the other to take out such birds as became entangled.

From Saturday at 6 a.m. until Sunday at 10 a.m. the following birds were captured and banded: Least Sandpiper, 1; Dowitcher, 2; Semipalmated Plover, 2; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 6; Kingfisher, 1; Carolina Chickadee, 1; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 2; Catbird, 4; Yellowthroat, 1; Redstart, 1; Bobolink, 1; Cardinal, 2.

The day was warm and sunny with little apparent bird movement. The conclusion was that a different time was indicated, and that a cold front might make for the reckless flight that brings success.—HARRY T. DAVIS, *State Museum, Raleigh, N. C.*

Random Notes from Clemson Area, Pickens Co., S. C.—The following notes are based upon observations by the author during 1954 and 1955.

Canada Geese—30 Canada Geese spent the winter on Lake Pssaqueena*, staying from about Christmas until March 1st.

Mallards—About 1000 mallards spent the winter on Lake Isaqueena. Pairs of Mallards were seen mating, beginning as early as Christmas week and continuing through the winter.

American Merganser—4 American Mergansers spent several weeks at Isaqueena coming in each night a little after sunset, presumably from Seneca River. On February 10, two males were going through courting antics exactly as described by Kortright in "*Ducks, Geese & Swans of North America*."

Water Fowl seen on Isaqueena—Canada Geese, Mallard, Black Duck, Red-head, Ring-neck, Lesser Scaup, Am. Widgeon, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Gadwall, Wood Duck, Pintail, Canvas-back, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, White-winged Scoter, American Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Coot, and Cormorant.

White-winged Scoter—March 29, 1954 one White-winged Scoter seen at close range. This bird not supposed to be so far inland.

Cormorant (Florida)—Two birds seen on May 23, 1955, one bird on May 24th. Identified from full description by Alex Sprunt. Attracted by their cry, a harsh "hoink" given while in flight. They are supposed to be silent birds. Very unusual so far inland.

Whip-poor-wills arrive at Clemson about March 1st. and Chuck-will's-

widow comes about two weeks later. Both stay in the Clemson area all summer.

Least Tern, July 31, 1954.

Brown Thrashers—On May 30, a pair of Brown Thrashers were noted feeding two broods. They were feeding the first brood which was on the ground and in the *Pyracantha* bush where the second nest was and they were feeding the second brood which was still in the nest. In 1954 a pair of Brown Thrashers built a nest, hatched and raised a brood from it. Then with a little repair work, they laid the second set of eggs in the same nest. A storm wrecked the nest before the second set of eggs hatched.

Ring-necked Duck—On June 2 there were three Ring-necked Ducks on Issaqueena, 2 drakes and one hen. The hen evidently went on North but two drakes were still on the lake on July 18th. On June 22 these ducks flew the length of the lake—about one mile, so they were not lame.

Carolina Wrens—A brood of Carolina Wrens came off the nest the first week in June. There is a Wood Thrush nest in a dogwood tree that the young birds left on May 25. On June 30 about 6:00 P.M. we were sitting on the porch and this family of young wrens went up into the tree where the old Wood Thrush nest is. They seemed much interested in the nest, playing around it, pushing and shoving like children. Then they left. About seven o'clock the Wrens—four of them—came back to the dogwood tree, flew about for a while and then all crowded into the thrush nest and settled down. They were still in the nest when it was so dark I could not see them with glasses at about thirty feet. I presume they spent the night there. They have never repeated the performance.

Cowbirds—Seen every month in the year in considerable numbers but have seen no other bird feeding a young Cowbird.

Arrival dates, spring of 1955:

March 20—Purple Martin

Barn Swallow

March 26—Chipping Sparrow

March 30—Whip-poor-will. On March 27 the temperature was 15° and freezing every night through the 30th.

April 1—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

April 11—Wood Thrush

April 13—Chimney Swift—late but had been watching for them for two weeks.

April 14—Catbird

Kingbird

April 15—Blue Grosbeak

April 17—Crested Flycatcher

April 18—Chuck-will's-widow

April 19—Red-eyed Vireo

April 21—Blackburnian Warbler

April 22—Summer Tanager

Black-poll Warbler

April 23—Yellow-breasted Chat

Yellow-throated Vireo

April 24—Indigo Bunting

* Lake Issaqueena is a lake about 120 acres on Six Mile Creek, about one mile from the Keeowee River which separates Pickens and Oconee counties. (For an account of the ducks at Greenville see *Shuler*, (*Chat* 18 (4): 96, 1954).—GASTON GAGE, *Clemson College, Clemson, S. C.*

Barn Swallows Nesting in Central Piedmont Region of N. C.—For a number of years now, Barn Swallows have been reported breeding regularly in small groups in northwestern N. C. (Allegheny and Watauga Counties) and on the coast as far south as McClellanville, S. C. There were no known nesting sites in the coastal and Piedmont areas between these

points. It remained for John Trott to bring to light last summer the location of a breeding colony of Barn Swallows in Stanly County, about 1 mile SW of Albermarle. On April 19, 1957 he identified an old nest taken from the Palmer barn on that day and on July 15 he went to the barn and found 3 active nests; one with 3 eggs and 2 with young. The initial report of the presence of the swallows at this barn came from Mrs. J. U. Whitlock.

Continued search for Barn Swallow nesting sites in North and South Carolina should be fruitful.—B. R. Chamberlain, *Matthews, N. C.*

Gannets on North Carolina Coast in Late Summer.—At Long Beach, North Carolina, about seven miles west of Southport, a dead, immature Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) was found on the beach on August 28, 1957. It was in very mottled plumage, and measured about 37 inches in length. It had apparently been dead for two or three days. Later the same day I saw two Gannets, one adult and one immature, flying over the ocean about 200 yards from the beach. The adult dove into the water once in typical Gannet fishing behavior. There were large numbers of menhaden and mullet in the area at the time, which may explain the early presence of Gannets here.

In *Birds of North Carolina* (Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley. 1942, p. 16-17), the earliest fall date for Gannets is "November". In *South Carolina Bird Life* (Sprunt and Chamberlain. 1949, p. 71), the earliest date is October 2.—JAMES T. TANNER, *University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn.* (In his *Check-List of Birds of Virginia*, 1952, Murray states that the Gannet is a "common winter visitor on the coast; more common as a transient in November and March; seen every month except June and September." A letter from Dr. Murray, dated Dec. 10, 1957, states that "we now have a September record and the item should read 'has been seen every month of the year except June.'"—*Dept. Ed.*)

Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Pea Island Refuge.—W. F. Rountrey and I made a trip to the Pea Island Refuge (upper N. C. coast) on Sept. 2, 1957, and to our surprise we saw three Yellow-headed Blackbirds with a flock of 50 to 60 Red-wings. They were slightly larger than the Red-wings and were dark brown, nearly black, on the body and wings with yellow on the throat, upper breast, and some on the side of the head below the eye. One was larger than the other two. The larger bird had a slight trace of white on the wings. The voice of these Yellow-heads was entirely different from that of the Red-wings and it fits the description given in Peterson's *Field Guide*. We observed the birds within 100 feet or so, flying and sitting in the tops of low bushes. From the markings, they appeared to be immatures.

In the process of following the Yellow-headed Blackbirds we flushed an Upland Plover from the short grass near the highway.—PAUL W. SYKES, JR., *Virginia Tech Station, Blacksburg, Va., Sept. 11, 1957.* (Other records of Yellow-headed Blackbirds in N. C.: Aug. 3, 1948, a male at Wilmington; Apr. 9, 1949, a male at Wilmington; Jan. 11, 1952, a female at New Holland; Aug. 15, 1952, a male collected at Raleigh. All are recorded in *The Chat*—*Dept. Ed.*)

Spring Count Notice—1958

Late April or early May is the time to make your annual Spring Count. Coverage of familiar Christmas Count areas is recommended. Send reports on both species and individuals to B. R. Chamberlain, Critter Hill, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

Only 8 counts were turned in last year, a poor participation. Result: a disappointing picture of migration in the Carolinas. Let's get out in good measure and make 1958 a banner year of 20 counts.—*Ed.*



Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	\$1.00	Contributing	\$25.00
Supporting	\$5.00	Affiliated Club	\$2.00
Life—\$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)			

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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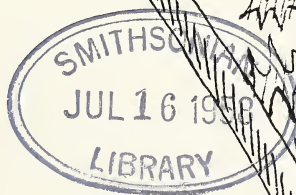
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Cover—Turquoise-browed Motmot, exotic tropical species of Yucatan, Mexico. Pen and ink sketch by James B. Shuler, Jr., author of "Birding in the Yucatan"; this issue, page 31.

The Chat

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Both honor and a great responsibility are conferred upon the person who is elected president of the Carolina Bird Club. As your new president I am grateful for this honor and very aware of the responsibility.

With your help and the wise guidance of the Executive Committee, I pledge to do the best I can to make this a happy and successful year.

The Carolina Bird Club is a wonderful organization in that it brings together the professional ornithologist and the interested amateur. Each is necessary to the other. The professional gives of his knowledge to the amateur, who in return, does the year long field work for which the professional often lacks time. The membership also allows many people who are interested in birds, but unable to do field work, to feel they are helping the cause through money contributions.

Probably every new president starts out with many dreams, only some of which can be fully realized, but it does no harm to dream, so here are some of mine for CBC:

1. Each member place the good of the WHOLE CLUB before personal desires.
2. Each adult member give a one year CBC membership to a bright young boy or girl and see that he or she gets to at least one field trip. These young people would furnish the new blood always needed if an organization is to be vital and have a long term future.
3. Each adult member who can—or cannot—do field work, but who can afford more financial assistance, become a supporting, contributing or life member. These additional funds would help carry on a more progressive educational program.
4. Each member talk up the endowment fund, and if possible, contribute some amount no matter how small. A large endowment fund would make possible long term projects.
5. More qualified observers assume the responsibility for regularly reporting area bird records to the *Chat* General Field Notes Chairman.
6. More work done by individual CBC members with schools, garden clubs and Boy and Girl Scout organizations. Many leaders of these groups would like to do more nature work but need help in starting.
7. Each member do all possible to carry on the fine projects started by past President, Charlotte Hilton Green, such as the Hawk and Owl study and the formation of more Junior Audubon Clubs.

Membership in the Carolina Bird Club can mean much to each one of us if we put something of ourselves into the organization, so let's all resolve to do more armchair study, more field work and attend more meetings where we can renew old friendships and make new ones.

EDNA LANIER APPLEBERRY

BIRDING IN THE YUCATAN—PART I

JAMES B. SHULER, JR.

MERIDA, MAY 25, 1957

Only four hours after leaving New Orleans we were settled in our hotel and traveling toward Merida's largest city park, Parque Centenario. Black Vultures, "Zopilotes" to the Yucatecans, were everywhere. They filled the sky. They swarmed over the walls and roofs of the market place. They perched in the trees which overlooked the gardens. This vast number of vultures is the sewage disposal and garbage collection system of Yucatan. Not one bit of discarded organic matter escapes their eyes. Anyone who kills one of these birds is subject to a 500 peso fine, so highly are they regarded as scavengers. Charleston, in the days of Audubon and Dr. Bachman, according to old accounts, supported a similar population of vultures.

Our carriage, drawn by a little horse, pulled up at the gates of the park, and the moment of seeing our first new species in Mexico was at hand. It was a Clay-colored Robin, *Turdus grayi*. It looked just like the familiar *Turdus migratorius* except that its plumage was a light olive-brown all over. It was a Robin in action too, hopping over the lawns and paying particular attention to the damp spots. It was very common and the children who had begun to follow us about, brought us a nestling, fully feathered, from a nest in the park. I would have expected the juvenile plumage to include a spotted breast, so I was quite surprised to find this bird to be uniformly "clay-colored" as to its underparts. I examined it closely with this in mind, then posed it on a twig and took a color transparency showing this characteristic.

Don R. Medina, Curatorial Assistant at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, wrote in answer to my questions about the "clear-breasted" juveniles that the skins of two juveniles he examined showed some individual variation. Both showed terminal dusky bands on the feathers of the throat and breast, and to a lesser extent on the flanks and abdomen. He stated that in one of the specimens these bands were rather faint, and that in any event they were not as well marked as in the young Eastern Bluebirds. The specimens Mr. Medina examined for me were taken at Veracruz. No Yucatan skins were available.

The Yucatan peninsula is very dry, but in the park was a small pool which overflowed and caused several very wet, swamp-like spots. Here we found three or four Kiskadee Flycatchers, *Pitangus sulphuratus*, perched in vegetation overhanging the pools. Although we did not see them dive, Kingfisher fashion, into the water for frogs or other aquatic animals, they are reported to do so.

Tucked away in a corner of the park was a small fenced area where ornamental plants were propagated. Several species made this spot their nesting place. A pair of Tropical Kingbirds, *Tyrannus melancholicus*, used a dead branch which projected above the adjacent trees as their perch. Their nest was concealed among the thick leaves of a lower branch. These birds are grayish about the head and have pale yellow underparts. They

act like our Eastern Kingbird with constant movement, chatter and defense of their territory against other species.

Vermilion-crowned Flycatchers, *Myiozetetes similis*, were detected in the vicinity. Their nest was a bulky structure of straw, conspicuously placed in the top of a tree. They often perched on or near the Kingbird's perch and were just as regularly chased.

Two feet away from the Vermilion-crowned Flycatcher's nest, a pair of Blue-gray Tanagers, *Thraupis virens*, had built. Their nest was so artfully concealed that for a while we thought that the nest of the Vermilion-crowned Flycatchers belonged to the Tanagers.

We found only one woodpecker in the park, the Yucatan Woodpecker, *Centurus pygmaeus*, called the Red-vented Woodpecker in Blake's *Birds of Mexico*. It is very like the Red-bellied Woodpecker, but the "ladder-back" of the latter is replaced by an almost black back in the former. It is "white-rumped" like the Flicker and the lower belly is strongly red, more extensively in some individuals than others. It is limited in distribution to the northern part of the Yucatan peninsula and some of the off-shore islands, but is very plentiful within its tiny range.

Red-eyed Cowbirds, *Tangavius aeneus*, were about. A group of these quietly slipped from tree to tree. Returning to their nest the Blue-gray Tanagers discovered the Cowbirds in their tree. At once they gave chase, and the whole group of Cowbirds flew meekly away.

The Talpacoti Dove, *Columbigallina talpacoti*, (Ruddy Ground-dove of Blake) was very common. The males are gray headed, with the rest of the body strongly suffused with burgundy. They are clear-breasted with spots on the wings. The females lack the reddish color. In this part of the world, where the House Sparrow has not yet found its way, the ground doves serve as small avian foragers in the city. They scramble over the paved sidewalk like tiny pigeons (which they are) paying little attention to the pedestrian traffic.

A song which we felt must be that of a mockingbird kept intruding on our observations, and we looked into the tops of leafy trees for minutes without result. After a while we had a good look at the Southern Mockingbird, *Mimus gilvus*, which we had suspected the singer to be all along. It is an odd thing, but that first glimpse of a new bird, no matter how common it might be, seems to come hard. Centenario Park is a little too wooded for this mocker. In the scrub and open residential areas around Merida it is, perhaps, the characteristic bird.

We took a taxi to the edge of town where the dry scrub forest, which is typical of most of Yucatan, begins. In the small trees Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were common. Yellow-faced Grasquits, *Tiaris olivacea*, whose trilling song reminded us of the song of the Grasshopper Sparrow, were plentiful along the edges of the roads and fields. The buzzy phrases of the song were shorter than that of the Grasshopper Sparrow.

A strange noise, something of a musical moo, attracted our attention. Finally we were treated with our first look at a uniquely tropical bird, the Turquoise-browed Motmot, *Eumomota superciliosa*. It is extremely beautiful, with brilliant metallic blues contrasting with soft greens and a rich rufous back. We were to see more of the Motmots at the Mayan ruins of the interior.

A two and a half hour trip from Merida to Piste, the little village a few miles from Chichen Itza, netted only the Black-throated Quail, *Colinus nigrogularis*, and the Cardinal. We watched the Cardinal fly across a sisal field and recalled our conversation with a Mexican gentleman who remarked when he heard of our interest in birds, "But Senor, you must see our car-dee-nal. It is the most be-u-ti-ful bird of all." The Black-throated Quail was standing on a stone wall edging a sisal field.

Our excursion to the ruins before lunch proved rather unproductive ornithologically. We stood on the steps of El Castillo, the dominant ruin of Chichen Itza, and listened to the rhythmic calling of the Common Chachalaca, *Ortalis vetula*. Some Cave Swallows flew in and out of the temple atop El Castillo, and we got a tantalizing glimpse of a large pale hawk we did not see clearly enough to identify.

We returned to Piste for lunch and afterward followed a little trail which led into the thorn scrub. A few hundred yards from the highway grew a large leafy tree. It was encircled by a broken-down wall, and there were Cave Swallows flying about. We found that they were entering and leaving a hole under the tree. We looked in and far below could see water. As our eyes got used to the light, we saw stalactites draped from the ceiling of a huge dome and reaching fifty or sixty feet down, almost to the water. Straight down from the hole in the roof of this cavern stretched a thread-like pipe through which the villagers pumped water from the subterranean pool. The Cave Swallows roiled about like bees and a few Turquoise-browed Motmots flew heavily around in the dark chamber. This well or "cenote" was probably the reason for the location of a village at this spot, for there is no surface water in Yucatan. The rain water sinks through the porous limestone and forms underground pools and streams.

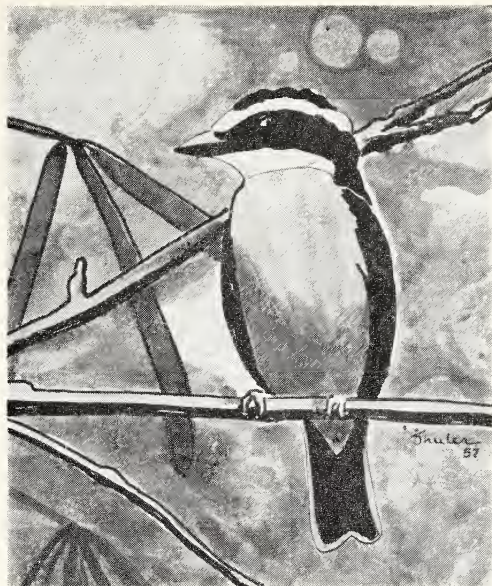
Down the trail a way we came to a dense thicket. In the shadows of this vegetation we detected a dark bird with a very light bill. It was soon identified as a Prevost Cacique, *Amblycercus holosericeus* (Yellow-billed Cacique of Blake). It is one of a group of colonial nesters in the family Icteridae. The bird life of Mexico is particularly rich in representatives of the Icterids.

Our next new bird was a Rose-Throated Becard, *Platypsaris aglaiae*. It looks very much like a Phoebe (though grayer) until it turns and one can see the little rose spot on its throat. The spot looks more like a stain than a part of the plumage. The clear rose color seems out of place on such a drab gray bird. Its call is two slurred notes, the second higher in pitch than the first.

We kept hearing what we were sure must be parrots but could not get a good look. They seemed very shy and adept at keeping out of sight. Finally we saw one of the noise makers in a tree about a hundred yards away. A yellow patch just above its bill marked it as the Yellow-lored Parrot, *Amazona xantholora*, a species restricted chiefly to the Yucatan peninsula proper (including British Honduras). Later two flew over the trail, and the bright red flashes of the primary coverts made us think that another species had appeared. However, this flash of red is one of the "banner-marks" of the Yellow-lored Parrot.

Kiskadee Flycatcher.

*Pen and ink sketch
by the author.*



Not far in front of us an Olive Sparrow, *Arremonops rufivirgata*, hopped across the path. (Scientific name probably should have been written *A. rufivirgatus* as it appears in Blake. Other species of this genus appear with the masculine ending in the check-list rather than with the feminine ending as above.) The gray head of this finch contrasts nicely with the olive plumage of the body. It is one of the unfortunate things about spending a few days birding in a strange country that most of one's effort is absorbed in simple identification. One sees a relatively common bird like the Olive Sparrow, and by the time he is sure of the species another bird is offering an all too brief opportunity to be identified. What matter if the Olive Sparrow may have a nest in a nearby thicket—the singer in the next tree may be a Ground Chat and there will be only one chance to make sure.

Our final bird of the day was the Gray Saltator, *Saltator coerulescens*. It is a large "floppy" finch with a white eye-line and a white stripe through a dark throat. It reminded me of the Anis I had seen near Merida, the feathers rather ruffled and the tail droopy. The song of this bird is rather like that of the Cardinal, though different in quality. The first note is shorter than the first note of the Cardinal's song and the whole effect is mellow.

MAY 29, 1957.

We sat at the edge of the Sacred Cenote of Chichen Itza a few yards to the right of the platform from which the young Mayan maidens were flung to drown in sacrifice to the rain god. Across the well a Pied Forest Hawk, *Micrastur semitorquatus*, (Collared Forest-falcon of Blake) flew powerfully from tree to tree. This hawk has a very long, heavily barred tail. It is said to be rather rare. As it seldom leaves dense cover we were

very fortunate that the wooded edge of the cenote provided just the right habitat and yet gave us an unobstructed view.

As we watched the falcon an acquaintance asked about the identity of a bird singing in some bushes on the edge of the cenote. This was a song of four notes which I wrote as "ta, teo, teo, ta." The first note was a clear whistle, followed by a higher note with a downward slur. The third syllable of the song was about the same pitch as the first but slurred downward. This last note was a clear whistle like the first, but lower in pitch than any of the other three. This phrase was repeated three or four times in a series, like the delivery of the Eastern Meadow Lark. When we tracked the songster down, we found the Spotted-breasted Wren, *Thryothorus maculipectus*. We did not locate a nest, but in another area we located a nest we believed might be of this species. It was situated in a thorny, sparsely foliated shrub about seven feet in height. The nest of the bird was two feet from the top of the bush. At the top was a nest of small viciously stinging black wasps. One of the wasps stung me and I can testify to the potency of their weapon. Sutton described just such a nest in his book on Mexican birds. Apparently choice of similar locations is not too uncommon among Central American birds.

We were diverted from the wren back to the far side of the cenote by three almost crow-sized birds which were moving about in the trees. We noted a white tipped tail and a dark breast. The bill seemed unduly large, and for a moment we thought of Oropendulas, those giant Central American Icterids. Soon a good view was afforded, and we were delighted to find that they were White-tipped Brown Jays, *Psilorhinus mexicanus*.

Another jay we observed, though in the scrub country away from the well, was the Yucatan Jay, *Cissilopha yucatanica* (the Black and Blue Jay of Blake). Of all the jays I have seen I think this one the most beautiful. The blue of the back and wings and upper surface of the tail is jewel-like, metallic without iridescence, and completely pure. There is no hint of murky pastel or gray. It terminates sharply at the hind neck and the rest of the bird is uncompromisingly black. All light which strikes the dark plumage is trapped. The blue back and wings seem to be riding over an inky shadow. A highlight or two, reflected from the eyes and beak, give it the mischievous glint common to the Corvidae. Its legs, a rich straw orange, are the perfect color to give a small complementary accent which makes the blue glow bluer and the black seem more cavernous.

We saw the Green Jay, *Cyanocorax yucas*, only once at Chichen, but had a good close look the one time we did see it. It is very beautiful also, but perhaps because it was not in sunlight, perhaps because we had just been watching a group of gaudy motmots, it did not seem as dramatic as the Yucatan Jay.

Before we left the well we noticed a Red-eyed Cowbird which seemed to be looking for nests. We watched it enter one nest, sit for a moment and fly on. It did not stay long enough to lay, it would seem, but perhaps that act of duplicity is accomplished in seconds.

Turquoise-browed Motmots seemed to be nesting in the well. There were several pairs there. They were seen to enter some of the numerous crevasses which marred the wall. In the days of the height of the Mayan civilization it is said that the walls were cut smooth and kept clear of vegetation so

that the living sacrificial victims would have nothing to which to cling. But time has undone the cruel handiwork and now the walls are covered with many plants, even good sized trees, and there is a large population of birds nesting there.

The Motmots also nest within the ruins, utilizing the holes left when wooden rafters rotted away. Their strange cry sounded even stranger when we entered a chamber which held a colony of them. They would pop out of their nesting holes a few at a time and utter their call as they flew swiftly to the bright outside. Incubation must have been in progress, for we saw no adults carrying food as we saw a week later at the ruins of Uxmal.

Outside, they perched in groups of trees which edged the clearing around the old temple. When they flew their long tails undulated behind them. The whole effect was very strange and fish-like, as though they were swimming through the air. It made them instantly identifiable in flight.

Here Cave Swallows nested too, attaching their mud structures high on the walls of the dark chamber. They build within holes if such are available and if the hole is too shallow they expand the chamber with a flaring mud wall on the open side. It cannot be said that Cave Swallows of the Yucatan fear man. We found a sizable colony on the rafters of an upstairs porch of a museum in the city of Merida.

JUNE 1, 1957

Several times we had flushed a covey of quail from the path a short distance from Piste. We suspected these birds to be the Black-throated Quail. Finally we walked into a group of these birds, and instead of flying they ran to the edge of the path and "froze" in the scant vegetation which grew along an old wall. We stood very still, and after a few minutes the quail began to edge off into the scrub. We got in some excellent observing before they disappeared. Our suspicions were confirmed. One who wishes to see the Black-throated Quail in its natural habitat must go to the Yucatan, for it occurs nowhere else in the world.

I was standing quietly in a particularly overgrown part of the trail when two Common Chachalacas flew up and perched on a branch not fifteen feet away. It was a rare treat, for though we had heard this noisy bird almost constantly about the fields around Piste, we had not gotten so much as a glimpse of one. They stood a few moments on the limb and then flew on, as well they might. Almost every adult male in that village carried a gun with him when walking the trails, hoping to supplement his dreary diet of tortillas and hot pepper with fresh meat.

On our before-breakfast walk one day we saw the Sulphury Flat-billed Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias sulphurescens* (the Yellow-olive Flycatcher of Blake). It is one of the many Mexican flycatchers with strangely modified bills. This one's bill is short, very broad and rather flattened. It is vireo size, has a gray head, olive upper parts and yellowish underparts. The white iris was a great help in identification.

In some brush we heard a song which we could not identify. Beginning with a sharp short whistle or chip, it continued with several two syllabled notes increasing in tempo and dropping in pitch. We finally located the singer, an Olive Sparrow, and were surprised to find it much farther away

than we had thought. The bird which sounded as if it were in the thicket at our feet was actually about forty feet away.

On our last visit to the ruins we heard another singer. The area was very open. Only one tree with few leaves grew near the path. The bird sang from the top of this tree and despite the sparse foliage was difficult to pinpoint. When we got a look, we found that it was the Ground Chat, *Chamaethlypis poliocephala* (the Gray-crowned Yellow-throat of Blake). It had a very thick bill. Its song consisted of a pleasant series of whistles, not at all like that of the Yellowthroat or the Yellow-breasted Chat.

That last day at the ruins we made a great effort to photograph the Turquoise-browed Motmot at the entrance of its nesting hole. The equipment we used was heavy, and the ruins where the Motmots nested were about a mile from the road. By the time we had finished and made our way back to the road to wait for the bus, I was exhausted. The prospect of having an hour to rest in the shade before boarding the bus was very attractive.

We sat down on a log beneath a tree, took the cameras and field glasses from around our necks, and made ourselves comfortable. A pair of Lesson Euphonias, *Tanagra affinis* (Scrub Euphonia of Blake) soon had us up again. They were perched on one of those beautiful epiphytes which are related to the pineapple and whose red flower stalks add much color to the dry jungle. We scrambled to get telephoto lens and light meter into coordination. Then came frenzied attempts to focus. We made one exposure before they flew away.

We settled down again and time, in a way impossible except on a tropical vacation, slipped by. A high pitched "ki, ki, ki, ki" behind us made us turn and look up. A tiny owl was staring intently down at us. I had the impression that its call was made in response to our presence. We identified it as the Streaked Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium brasilianum* (Ferruginous Pigmy-Owl of Blake). It stayed in our vicinity for ten minutes or so, changing its perch now and then. Although the light was very bright, it moved as if it could see without difficulty.

An afternoon walk down one of the village "streets" took us past the point where the limestone had been worn smooth by countless feet tramping to and from the corn fields, to where the rocks were sharp and the going tough.

We found our white-eyed Flat-bill again. What a shame that this charming and unusual bird does not have a shorter and more apt common name than Sulphury Flat-billed Flycatcher.

A small group of army ants attracted our attention. In the rain forest army ants on the march often mean good luck for ornithologists. There are some species which seem to specialize in following the voracious insects and feeding on the small creatures the ants rout out of hiding. This army was attended only by a pair of Groove-billed Anis, *Crotophaga sulcirostris*, and several Yucatan Jays.

The common Oriole at Piste was the Lichtenstein Oriole, *Icterus gularis*. Its superbly constructed nests were to be seen hanging from fifteen feet up to the tops of the taller trees. Some of the nests we watched were attended by food-carrying adults. Skutch described how a related Icterid began its

(Continued on Page 42.)

USING THE NEW "CHECK-LIST" FOR SIGHT RECORDS IN THE CAROLINAS

B. RHETT CHAMBERLAIN and THOMAS W. SIMPSON

To the casual field observer and backyard bird watcher, the new fifth edition of the AOU *Check-List of North American Birds* will seem to have only nuisance value. His Duck Hawk has become a "Peregrine Falcon" and a Curlew is now a "Whimbrel". He cannot quite bring himself to call the Olive-backed Thrush a "Swainson's", or apply the name "Rufous-sided Towhee" to the familiar bird beneath his hedge. His dog-eared Peterson, with thumb tabs laboriously glued to the color plates and his "firsts" carefully written into the margins, has suddenly become obsolete! What has he gained in return?

The new "Check-List" is actually of tremendous advantage to us. It summarizes the current opinions of many active ornithologists regarding the inter-relationships of our North American birds. The accent is on kinship rather than differences. In this edition stress has been placed on the *species*—at the general level of field identification. Common names now apply to species alone and the vernacular names for subspecies have been left out. Sight records should not now be colored by the "false accuracy" of presumptive subspecific identification through binoculars.

In his excellent review in the January issue of *The Auk*, A. L. Rand cogently expresses the status of this work by saying, "The committee has covered a tremendous amount of material, examined a great many debated points, and here we have a calm and balanced judgment. There has been perhaps a tendency to be conservative, in rejecting some proposed innovations. But nomenclature must keep in touch with the past as well as look to the future. Classification is not a finished subject. The new Check-List is one of the imposing landmarks along the road."

Browse through a copy of this book when the chance arises. Look up the Cattle Egret and its reported distribution. Note the terse comment on the Carolina Parakeet and the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Note too the usual winter ranges of the Broad-winged Hawk and the Baltimore Oriole. You will probably be intrigued by many of the entries in the Hypothetical List. Finally, revise your own field guides and reference books, using the original text or, if you will, the following compilation of the common names of our Carolina species.

(Changes from the Chat Check-List of June 1953 are indicated as follows:

*-word change; x-hyphen dropped.)

Common Loon
Red-throated Loon
Red-necked Grebe
Horned Grebe
Western Grebe
Pied-billed Grebe
*Cory's Shearwater
Greater Shearwater
Sooty Shearwater
*Little Shearwater
*Audubon's Shearwater
Leach's Petrel
Wilson's Petrel
*White-tailed Tropic-bird
White Pelican
Brown Pelican
Blue-faced Booby

Brown Booby
Gannet
*Great Cormorant
Double-crested Cormorant
Anhinga
Magnificent Frigate-bird
Great White Heron
Great Blue Heron
Green Heron
Little Blue Heron
Cattle Egret
Reddish Egret
Common Egret
Snowy Egret
*Louisiana Heron
Black-crowned Night Heron
Yellow-crowned Night Heron

Least Bittern
 American Bittern
 xWood Ibis
 Glossy Ibis
 White Ibis
 Roseate Spoonbill
 *American Flamingo
 Mute Swan (wild)
 Whistling Swan
 Canada Goose
 *Brant
 Barnacle Goose
 White-fronted Goose
 Snow Goose
 Blue Goose
 xFulvous Tree Duck
 Mallard
 Black Duck
 Gadwall
 *Pintail
 Common Teal
 Green-winged Teal
 Blue-winged Teal
 Cinnamon Teal
 European Widgeon
 American Widgeon
 Shoveler
 Wood Duck
 Redhead
 Ring-necked Duck
 xCanvasback
 Greater Scaup
 Lesser Scaup
 xCommon Goldeneye
 Bufflehead
 xOldsquaw
 Harlequin Duck
 King Eider
 White-winged Scoter
 Surf Scoter
 *Common Scoter
 Ruddy Duck
 Hooded Merganser
 Common Merganser
 Red-breasted Merganser
 Turkey Vulture
 Black Vulture
 White-tailed Kite
 Swallow Tailed Kite
 Mississippi Kite
 Sharp-shinned Hawk
 Cooper's Hawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 Harlan's Hawk
 Red-shouldered Hawk
 Broad-winged Hawk
 Swainson's Hawk
 Rough-legged Hawk
 Golden Eagle
 Bald Eagle
 Marsh Hawk
 Osprey
 Peregrine Falcon
 Pigeon Hawk
 Sparrow Hawk
 Ruffed Grouse
 xBobwhite
 Turkey
 Sandhill Crane
 Limpkin
 King Rail
 Clapper Rail
 Virginia Rail
 *Sora
 Yellow Rail
 Black Rail
 Purple Gallinule
 Common Gallinule
 American Coot
 xAmerican Oystercatcher
 Lapwing
 *Semipalmated Plover
 Piping Plover
 *Wilson's Plover
 Killdeer
 *American Golden Plover
 Black-bellied Plover
 Ruddy Turnstone
 American Woodcock
 Common Snipe
 Long-billed Curlew
 *Whimbrel
 Upland Plover
 Spotted Sandpiper
 Solitary Sandpiper
 Willet
 xGreater Yellowlegs
 xLesser Yellowlegs
 Knot
 Purple Sandpiper
 Pectoral Sandpiper
 White-rumped Sandpiper
 Baird's Sandpiper
 Least Sandpiper
 Dunlin
 *Short-billed Dowitcher
 *Long-billed Dowitcher
 Stilt Sandpiper
 Semipalmated Sandpiper
 Western Sandpiper
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper
 Marbled Godwit
 Hudsonian Godwit
 Ruff (Reeve)
 Sanderling
 *American Avocet
 Black-necked Stilt
 Red Phalarope
 Wilson's Phalarope
 Northern Phalarope
 Pomarine Jaeger
 Parasitic Jaeger
 Long-tailed Jaeger
 Glaucous Gull
 Iceland Gull
 Great Black-backed Gull
 Herring Gull
 Ring-billed Gull
 Laughing Gull
 Franklin's Gull
 Bonaparte's Gull
 *Black-legged Kittiwake
 Gull-billed Tern
 Forster's Tern
 Common Tern
 Roseate Tern
 Sooty Tern
 Bridled Tern
 Least Tern
 Royal Tern
 Sandwich Tern
 Caspian Tern
 Black Tern
 Noddy Tern
 Black Skimmer
 *Razorbill
 Thick-billed Murre
 Dovekie
 Mourning Dove
 Ground Dove
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo
 Black-billed Cuckoo
 Barn Owl
 Screech Owl
 Great Horned Owl
 Snowy Owl
 Burrowing Owl
 Barred Owl
 Long-eared Owl
 Short-eared Owl
 Saw-whet Owl
 Chuck-will's-widow
 Whip-poor-will
 xCommon Nighthawk
 Chimney Swift
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Rufous Hummingbird
 Belted Kingfisher
 Yellow-shafted Flicker
 Pileated Woodpecker
 Red-bellied Woodpecker
 Red-headed Woodpecker
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Red-cockaded Woodpecker
 Eastern Kingbird
 Gray Kingbird
 *Western Kingbird
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
 xGreat Crested Flycatcher
 Eastern Phoebe
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
 Acadian Flycatcher
 Traill's Flycatcher
 Least Flycatcher
 Eastern Wood Pewee
 Olive-sided Flycatcher
 Vermilion Flycatcher
 Horned Lark
 Tree Swallow
 Bank Swallow
 Rough-winged Swallow
 Barn Swallow
 Cliff Swallow
 Purple Martin
 Blue Jay
 Common Raven
 *Common Crow
 Fish Crow
 Black-capped Chickadee
 Carolina Chickadee
 Tufted Titmouse
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 Brown-headed Nuthatch
 Brown Creeper
 House Wren
 Winter Wren
 Bewick's Wren
 Carolina Wren
 *Long-billed Marsh Wren
 Short-billed Marsh Wren
 *Mockingbird
 Catbird
 Brown Thrasher
 *Robin
 Wood Thrush
 Hermit Thrush
 Swainson's Thrush
 Gray-checked Thrush
 *Veery
 *Eastern Bluebird
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
 Golden-crowned Kinglet
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 *Water Pipit
 Sprague's Pipit
 Cedar Waxwing
 Loggerhead Shrike
 Starling
 White-eyed Vireo
 Yellow-throated Vireo
 Solitary Vireo
 Red-eyed Vireo
 Philadelphia Vireo
 Warbling Vireo
 Black-and-white Warbler
 Prothonotary Warbler
 Swainson's Warbler
 Worm-eating Warbler
 Golden-winged Warbler
 Blue-winged Warbler
 Bachman's Warbler
 Tennessee Warbler
 Orange-crowned Warbler
 Nashville Warbler
 Parula Warbler
 Yellow Warbler
 Magnolia Warbler
 Cape May Warbler
 Black-throated Blue Warbler
 Myrtle Warbler
 Black-throated Green Warbler
 Cerulean Warbler
 Blackburnian Warbler
 Yellow-throated Warbler
 Chestnut-sided Warbler
 Bay-breasted Warbler
 xBlackpoll Warbler
 Pine Warbler
 Kirtland's Warbler
 Prairie Warbler
 Palm Warbler
 xOvenbird
 *xNorthern Waterthrush
 xLouisiana Waterthrush
 Kentucky Warbler
 Connecticut Warbler
 Mourning Warbler
 xYellowthroat
 Yellow-breasted Chat
 Hooded Warbler
 Wilson's Warbler
 Canada Warbler
 American Redstart
 House Sparrow
 Bobolink
 *Eastern Meadowlark
 Yellow-headed Blackbird
 xRedwinged Blackbird
 Orchard Oriole
 Baltimore Oriole
 Rusty Blackbird
 Brewer's Blackbird
 Boat-tailed Grackle
 Common Grackle
 *Brown-headed Cowbird
 Western Tanager
 Scarlet Tanager
 Summer Tanager
 Cardinal
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
 Black-headed Grosbeak
 Blue Grosbeak
 Indigo Bunting
 Painted Bunting
 Dickcissel
 Evening Grosbeak
 Purple Finch
 *Common Redpoll
 Pine Siskin
 American Goldfinch
 Red Crossbill
 White-winged Crossbill
 Green-tailed Towhee
 *Rufous-sided Towhee
 Ipswich Sparrow
 Savannah Sparrow
 Grasshopper Sparrow
 LeConte's Sparrow
 Henslow's Sparrow
 Sharp-tailed Sparrow
 Seaside Sparrow
 Vesper Sparrow
 Lark Sparrow
 Bachman's Sparrow
 Slate-colored Junco
 *Tree Sparrow
 Chipping Sparrow
 Clay-colored Sparrow
 Field Sparrow
 Harris' Sparrow
 White-crowned Sparrow
 White-throated Sparrow
 Fox Sparrow
 Lincoln's Sparrow
 Swamp Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Lapland Longspur
 Smith's Longspur
 Snow Bunting



BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAVER, Department Editor

In this department, way back in March and June of 1954, we had quite a discussion of albino or partial albino birds. Reports were sent in to me from all parts of the Carolinas, and I think everyone was interested in the odd-looking birds described. On January 30 of this year, Mrs. F. S. Price, who lives opposite the grammar school just outside of Eastover, phoned me to come quickly and see a white Robin that was in her pasture. I grabbed my binoculars and went. Well, we walked all over the pasture, and were just about to give up and go home, when we came over a little rise in the land by a gate, and there was the Robin. His head, shoulders and the top part of his breast were pure white! Seen from the back, he had two bands of white across his back, one about at the bend of his wings, the other about halfway of his tail. There were a few dark spots around the back of his neck. Below the white breast, the normal reddish color could easily be seen. His bill and eyes were just like the other Robins, which were feeding all around him in the grass. These ordinary birds did not fight him, or seem to pay any attention to the fact that he looked so different. Kay Sisson came down from Columbia the next day, and we found him in the same spot. Later on, he moved to the area around the Baptist Church, and he was last seen by me on February 21 in a yard across the street.

Has anyone else seen any such albino or partial albino birds this winter? This department would like to have such reports.—*Dept. Editor.*

(Gilbert Bristow, Columbia, S. C., reported an albino Robin at Earlewood Park in the city, the last three days of January.—*Ed.*)

We are always glad to have notes from Mrs. G. E. Charles, Aynor, S. C. She shares with us the following incidents:

About nine o'clock on the morning of December 12, a cold, cold morning, I went out with food for the birds. As I placed the first handful on the feeder, a Pine Warbler flew to the feeder then back to a dogwood limb. I held out some food in my hand. By short flights, it came nearer until it perched on the side of my hand long enough to pick up one crumb, then flew away. The north wind was too cold for me to wait to see if it would return. In all my twenty-odd years of feeding wild birds, never before had one come down and deliberately taken food from my hand!

On the morning of December 25, there was a beautiful Christmas package on my backyard bird feeder. It was wrapped in black and orange, with some strips of white on the sides . . . a male Baltimore Oriole! On the thirty-first, three females arrived. The four are still here at this writing, despite the fact that many days during the severe cold weather they had no water because the birdbath was frozen. Often there was no food on the shelf, because the "bird-woman" was shut indoors with the flu. However, there was always the chunk of suet, and they ate greedily from it, as did the Pine Warblers and the female Downy Woodpecker.

Mrs. A. W. Bachman, of Henderson, North Carolina, sent in the following report:

I have had a Yellow-breasted Chat feeding with me since January 3rd. It is possible that the bird has been here since the first cold weather, and I had not seen it. The Chat is extremely shy and retiring. It is so wary that any movement at the window sends it scurrying off. I have never seen where it goes, as the weather has been too extreme for me to stay outside and watch it. I tried to check its feeding times, and some days it came four times on this schedule: 7:30; 11:30; 2:30 and 4:30. Of course, these timings are approximate. Some days it was seen only once, and that was in the afternoon. Strange to say, the Chat never came to feed when the snow was on the ground either time. As far as I could tell, it ate chick feed, and once I saw it eating a piece of cooked veal suet that I had thrown out. The bird seems to be in good health; I have seen no evidence of any injury. Of course, the yellow of the breast is not as bright as it is in the spring and summer. When the sun shines on the breast, even a novice at bird study could identify this species.

We have the Evening Grosbeaks back this year in Henderson. There are not nearly so many as there were two winters ago. I purchased sunflower seed especially for them, and so far not a one has graced the feeding tray. Mrs. W. B. Daniel has had a couple of banded ones among her visitors.

A very interesting letter from Mrs. Olin Griffin, of Fort Mill, S. C., tells of her experiences while developing her back yard as a sanctuary for birds. She began with several birdbaths, then added feeders, and many kinds of berried shrubbery and trees. As a screen and background, she used privet hedge, which was allowed to grow untrimmed. There are lots of persimmon and wild cherry trees on the farm, with pokeberries and honeysuckle that come up voluntarily. In her garden, she plants a row of sunflowers for the Cardinals and Goldfinches. These natural attractions, with the addition of the daily ration of bread crumbs and suet on the feeders, draw many birds to this yard. By answering the distress calls of her nesting birds, she has been able to protect them from predation by cats and snakes, so much so that she has increased the Brown Thrasher population from two to eight! She closes by saying: "Now let me tell you about my Catbirds. They nest so close to the house in the shrubbery that they come and perch on the backs of the porch chairs to sing—sometimes they sound as if they were inside the house!"

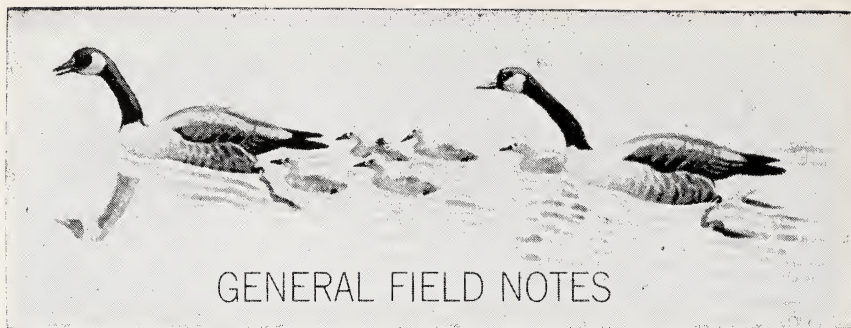
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(Continued from Page 37.)

nest by attaching a loop to a branch or twig. From that point on the bird used this loop as an entrance and wove material from the inside of the completed portion. The sight of the rich orange adult entering at the top of its pendulant masterpiece is unforgettable.

We could hear parrots calling, but in what we were beginning to learn was their standard procedure, they stayed out of sight. Suddenly they were all around us, hidden in the thick foliage. We moved ever so cautiously, and through a break in the leaves we saw two of them. Not as clearly as we would have liked—their backs were turned toward us, and they became suspicious at once—but their rather small size, long tail, and white eye-ring marked them as Aztec Parrakeets, *Aratinga astec*, our last new bird for Piste.

[George Townes (Greenville, S. C.) was my companion on this trip. Part II will include visits to X-can and Progreso, a check-list of species identified in Yucatan and a bibliography.—*Greenville, S. C.*]



GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. B. Chamberlain, Robert A. Norris, Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

We are fortunate in being able to add Robert Norris to our Advisory Council. Known through his publications in such journals as the *Condor*, *The Auk*, *The Wilson Bulletin*, and Bent's *Life Histories*, Dr. Norris needs no introduction to ornithologists. *Chat* readers are acquainted with him through his excellent contributions to these columns. We have lost, temporarily, we hope, the assistance of Robert Holmes, Jr., M.D., on our council. Bob, following his internship in Atlanta, is now in Korea, a Captain in the Medical Corps.

The attention of contributors to GFN is called to the new A. O. U. Check-List of Common Names reproduced in part elsewhere in this issue. Names received for publication that are not in agreement with new list will be changed to conform.

Evening Grosbeaks are still with us (Apr. 13) and reports continue to come in. A summary of their wintering is in preparation.

Correction.—In our "Briefs for the Files" section of the December 1957 issue, page 92, we incorrectly credited the Appleberrys with the record of the Gray Kingbirds at Southport. Mrs. Appleberry has called our attention to the fact that the first observation (June 28) was made by Waters Thompson of Southport. He and the Appleberrys watched the birds later.

Winter Casualties at Mattamuskeet.—In our climate we tend to question references to direct relationship between degrees of cold and bird life because we seldom have concrete evidence. The following exception is noteworthy. It is quoted from a letter from Royston R. Rudolph, Management Biologist at the Mattamuskeet Refuge.

"The peak population of ducks at Mattamuskeet, 182,000, occurred during early December. The following estimates show the decline in duck numbers during the rest of the winter (all in thousands): 136 in late December; 124 in late January; 63 in late February; 8 in mid-March. Very noticeable 'pull-outs' of ducks were noted following two severe freezes that occurred on Dec. 12-13 and Feb. 17-21. Practically all the marsh area and much of the lake was frozen over for several days during the December freeze. The February freeze, reportedly the worst since 1917-18, completely covered Mattamuskeet and most of the sounds. Though diving ducks were reported to be in poor shape, we found only a few scaup and Ruddy's dead at Swanquarter Refuge. **Horned Grebes** were hardest hit; along one mile of shoreline in Rose Bay, I found the bodies of 29 Grebes."—*Dept. Ed.*

Pelican Colony on the North Edisto River.—From my notebook: Sept. 6, 1957. Very hot. Place—Deveaux Bank at the mouth of the North Edisto River, between Seabrook and Botany Bay Islands, Charleston County, S. C. On the south end of this bank or island a sizeable colony of Brown Pelicans were nesting on and among the sand dunes. The nests were simply sea oats and weeds flattened down on the top of a small dune or hump in the sand. We saw three or four unhatched eggs; at least two just hatched birds—still wet and very dark gray; many downy white young still in the nests; and innumerable ones at various other stages on up to adult. At the edge of the beach in small inlets and shallow gullies the immature pelicans were making test flights (practice land and water take-offs and landings) and quite a few of them appeared to need JATO (jet-assisted-take-off), as they would run along on the beach and flap their wings going faster and faster—then topple over and skim along on their breasts. Many of the older birds appeared to be looking on at all this display and possibly giving instructions.

We had high tides in July and August here at Edisto Beach and that may have disturbed earlier nests and account for the rather late date for this activity. The fairly swift and deep waters around Deveaux Bank in all probability keep raccoons and 'possums from preying on the nests.

Our visit to the bank occurred around noon and we did not stay around the nests very long for fear the eggs or newly hatched birds would be damaged. Our party was composed of: Mrs. B. H. Guy, Walterboro, S. C., Mrs. Wm. B. Johnson, Aiken, S. C., Mrs. H. S. Lybrand, and son, Citadel Cadet, Sam Lybrand, Edisto Beach, S. C., and the writer.—MRS. PAUL L. ATWOOD, *Edisto Beach, S. C.*

Wood Ibises Inland in North Carolina.—A visit to Lennons Marsh, near Lumberton, N. C., is always rewarding, and a trip the last of August accompanied by James L. Stephens, Jr., was no exception. Arriving in the early evening of August 28, we found large flocks of American Egrets and Little Blue Herons coming into the marsh to roost. It was fascinating to see the spectacular way the higher flying egrets and herons, when directly over the roost, would suddenly descend to it by a series of side-slips. The Little Blue Herons were most numerous with the immature bird predominant in that group. A scattering of Great Blue and Green Herons were also seen as well as some Wood Ducks. About dusk we saw first one and then two more large birds with outstretched necks flapping and then gliding toward the center of the marsh. Stephens promptly identified them as Wood Ibises, the first seen in the marsh since 1955. The last large flock of Wood Ibises was seen in 1943. Their appearance was of particular interest since we had just been discussing Robert Allen's current study on the critical status of the "Wood Stork." He says that the population of this Ibis is alarmingly low since they have not had a successful nesting season in Florida in some years.

Returning alone at sunrise the next morning, I again saw two of the Ibises leaving the roost for the day's feeding. That morning large numbers of Wood Ducks were present; Stephens had seen 150 several days before. However, he had stated the Wood Duck population was down due to the almost complete failure of the mast crop in Robeson County in the fall of 1956; consequently the "Woodys" moved on to other areas to winter and then nest. A very early Coot was present; it was also seen by Stephens several days before. A mature Purple Gallinule was brilliant in the early morning sun, and of more interest, it was accompanied by an immature bird. This might suggest nesting in the marsh, particularly in view of the fact that immatures have been seen there in previous year.

No Night Herons or Anhingas were observed; in fact Stephens has seen no Anhingas in the marsh this year at all. He feels this is due to the disturbance of the rookery in the middle of the marsh by poachers for the past several seasons.—JOSEPH R. NORWOOD, *Charlotte, N. C.* October 9, 1957.

Swans: Night Behavior.—An interesting experience occurred at Water Lily on Currituck Sound (N. C.) recently. While "moon-watching" from

a dock at about 9:00 p.m., on Nov. 29, I realized after a period of dark adaptation that Canada Geese and Whistling Swans were readily visible through the scope some 200 yards away on the water. They were continually moving about, rising up to flap their wings, and honking. The swans swam about over a considerable span of water and appeared to be feeding about as actively as during the day, tipping up with tails high. Occasional chases on the water seemed to denote mating activity. When we left at 10:00, they were still carousing around, destroying any illusions I might have had about swans' proper bedtime.—THOMAS W. SIMPSON, M.D., *Winston-Salem, N. C.* (verbatim from a personal letter dated Dec. 8, 1957, to *Dept. Ed.*).

White-fronted Goose and Red-necked Grebe at Pea Island.—On March 27 (1958) I visited the Pea Island Refuge, where Mr. H. C. Phillips was good enough to show me around. The weather was pretty miserable that day—but fortunately the rain let up to some extent and we were able to see a number of waterfowl. There were plenty of Canada Geese, a few Snows (perhaps a dozen all told), and five Whistling Swans. The prize, however, which we were able to observe quite closely from the highway, was an immature White-fronted Goose. It was quite plainly of the Greenland subspecies (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*), having an orange-yellow (rather than pink) bill which was only slightly paler than the bright orange legs. This is the race to which Delacour assigns most Atlantic coast records of the White-fronted Goose.

It was my good fortune to see another rare (for North Carolina) bird the same day. On the way back, crossing Oregon Inlet, I noticed a Red-necked (Holbell's) Grebe swimming just off the ferry slip at the Pea Island side of the Inlet. It was molting, about halfway out of the winter plumage. There were many Horned Grebes around, in all plumage stages and the size contrast was striking.—KENNETH C. PARKES, *Associate Curator of Birds, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.* (We are grateful for the foregoing paragraphs from a personal letter from Dr. Parkes.—*Dept. Ed.*).

Cranes in North Carolina: Old Reports Confirmed.—In *Birds of North Carolina*, 1942, page 111, the Brimleys and Pearson repeated in substance what the 1919 Edition related regarding the Family *Gruidae*: Craness, as follows:

"A member of this family, known as the Florida subspecies of the Sandhill Crane, is found in Florida, South Georgia, and southern Mississippi. An early explorer reported them common in the Cape Fear River country. At various times rumors have reached us of so-called 'Savannah Craness' being seen in Brunswick County, North Carolina, but special search throughout much of the region by H. H. Brimley and Pearson during two early summer trips failed to reveal any evidence of the presence of Craness."

This was being repeated in the 1957 Edition of *Birds of North Carolina* that is now in the page proof stage. At least a note will add this twelfth new bird. Thanks to the alertness of James L. (Jim) Stephens, Lumberton, the record is now definite.

On the morning of Nov. 21, 1957, in the State Museum mail there was a package from Jim Stephens. This contained 2 heads of large birds with about 12 inches of neck with each. These are clearly of Sandhill Craness.

A letter explained that a hunter thought the Craness to be Canada Geese and shot them in an open field, one-half a mile from Lennon's Marsh in Robeson County. When Mr. Stephens learned of them they had been plucked for eating. Incidentally, in the western United States these birds, probably another subspecies, were considered game birds over a period of many years.

The wingspread of the two birds measured six feet. One shows more brown on the head and neck and this appears to be a young bird.

The kill was made on Nov. 19, 1957. There had been a preceding period of warm southerly winds.

The 1957 A.O.U. Check-List presents the Sandhill Crane as three distinct races, viz: Little Brown Crane (*Grus canadensis canadensis*); Sandhill Crane (*G. c. tabida*), and Florida Sandhill Crane (*G. c. pratensis*). The latter is the subspecies listed as resident in parts of Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and Florida and casual to the Waccamaw River in South Carolina. This is probably the race represented by the two heads. Further studies may give a definite answer.

It is of interest that Sprunt and Chamberlain, in *South Carolina Bird Life* record a specimen of the Little Brown Crane (*G. c. canadensis*), taken near Mount Pleasant in October, 1890, and a specimen of the Sandhill Crane (*G. c. tabida*) taken on North Santee River, in December, 1941. Three other sight records are listed. It is notable that the Florida Sandhill Crane (*G. c. pratensis*) that resides in South Georgia was not on the South Carolina List.—HARRY T. DAVIS, *State Museum, Raleigh, N. C.*

A Winter Whip-poor-will.—Winter records from the coastal area of Georgia relating to the Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferous vociferous*) are almost non-existent. Apparently this is not true for South Carolina as *South Carolina Bird Life* (1949) by Sprunt and Chamberlain seems to indicate otherwise. Nevertheless, the following bit of information may be of interest.

On Dec. 30, '57, Robert Harrison struck an Eastern Whip-poor-will with his car while driving on his father's plantation, which is known as Fife Plantation, located in Jasper County, South Carolina. The blow from the car broke the bird's wing and he picked it up and brought it to me for identification. Various field marks, including a large amount of white in the outer tail feathers indicate to me that the bird is a male Eastern Whip-poor-will.—HERMAN W. COOLIDGE, *Savannah, Ga., Dec. 31, 1957*. (A.O.U. Check-List places the upper limit of the winter range at Mount Pleasant, S. C., "rarely north to eastern North Carolina (New Bern)". The New Bern bird was collected, Dec. 10, 1934.—*Dept. Ed.*.)

Winter Hummingbird at Wilmington.—A female Ruby-throated Hummingbird flew down to red light bulbs which Mrs. Mary Ulrich was using for outside door decorations on December 21, 1957, and pecked at them as if it thought they contained syrup. She immediately put up syrup vials. These were partly emptied but she did not see the bird again. On March 10th, 1958, Mrs. Robert Tate reported a female Hummingbird in the flowering quince bush just outside her window. It fed off and on all day. On April 1st, a male Hummingbird was seen in the Tate quince bush by John Dupont. The Tate and Ulrich homes are both on the sound (between the city and the beach) and are about three bird-flying miles apart.—EDNA LANIER APPLEBERRY, *Wilmington, N. C.* (We carry the report of the mid-winter female Ruby-throat in the Carolinas with reservation. The odds favor the chances that it was a Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*). We believe that they cannot be separated in the field without considerable experience. Where specimens have been taken, it seems that those positively identified have been Rufous Hummingbirds. The subject requires study. Incidentally, Bent, in his *Life Histories* Nat. Mus. Bull. 176 p. 403, states that the Rufous Hummingbird shows "a decided preference for red flowers."—*Dept. Ed.*)

First Record of the Western Meadowlark in South Carolina.—In the course of trapping and marking Eastern Meadowlarks (*Sturnella magna*) in a field in the Savannah River Plant area, southwestern Aiken County, South Carolina, I noticed on several days in mid-February, 1958, a remarkably pale, grayish individual which aroused my curiosity. This bird was clearly distinguishable from the other meadowlarks—a dozen or more—which I had been attracting to a corn-baited area in "field 3-412," where observations of both meadowlarks and Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) were being made from a nearby blind. The pale individual was more or less associated with the others, and its feeding behavior and degree of wariness were not appreciably different from the "average" as

indicated by its darker, browner fellows. At no time did I hear its voice. Realizing that this bird might be an example of the western species, I captured it on February 24 and prepared a study skin (R.A.N. 1974). It was a female, weighing 97 grams and having little fat. The relatively pallid coloration, in which there was scarcely a suggestion of the rich browns characteristic of the more easterly races of *S. magna*, together with other features, notably the slight extension of yellow into the malar region, was quite enough to make me strongly suspect that I had an example of the Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*). For this reason the skin was submitted to Dr. Wesley E. Lanyon of the American Museum of Natural History, who, having made an extensive study of Eastern and Western meadowlarks in Wisconsin, was in excellent position to offer critical appraisal.

Among other things, Dr. Lanyon pointed out (letter, March 8) that the specific differences between these two meadowlarks are admittedly slight; that a statistical analysis of the morphology of the genus *Sturnella* has not yet been made; and that there is considerable geographical variation in all morphological characters within both species. He added that "the selection of the appropriate combination of these variable characters to use in identifying a given specimen, particularly a wintering specimen, presupposes a thorough knowledge of geographical variation in the genus, which we do not have as yet." Dr. Lanyon plans, incidentally, to attack this problem in the not distant future. His letter continued thus: "With that background and word of caution, then, let me venture to say that your specimen can be identified as a female *neglecta* with the same degree of assurance as marks the morphological identification of any meadowlark at the present time. I have compared it carefully with our series here and find it to agree favorably with females throughout the range of *neglecta*."

"The northeastward extension of the breeding range of *neglecta* in the last fifty years no doubt has led to the presence of wintering *neglecta* in the Gulf States where they were not formerly found, perhaps to a greater extent than is currently appreciated. Last spring, for example, I studied some isolated breeding pairs of *neglecta* in northeastern Ohio. There are now breeding records of *neglecta* near Toronto, and near Quebec. It is not unreasonable to suspect that at least some of these peripheral birds winter due southward, which would put them in your backyard. The chances of someone identifying them or collecting them on the wintering grounds are very slight. I think your record is a contribution, then, on that basis."

According to the A.O.U. *Check-List of North American Birds*, fifth edition, 1957, there are casual records of the Western Meadowlark in Kentucky and other records, deemed accidental, in northern Ontario, New York and Georgia. The record from Georgia, it might be added, was based on a typical specimen collected by Arthur Helme on March 16, 1903, in Camden County; three others which he collected showed, in their plumage, an approach toward the western species (*Birds of Georgia*, Ga. Ornith. Soc. Occas. Publ. No. 2, 1945). My specimen thus appears to be a "first" for South Carolina. It has been deposited in the collection of the University of Georgia.

For observers in the Carolinas or elsewhere in the southeast, it is worth stressing the fact that *neglecta*, as observed under field conditions, tends to contrast with the darker, browner individuals of *magna*. This observation gains support from the literature. In discussing both species as found in southern Wisconsin, Stoddard (Wilson Bull., 34: 67-79, 1922) stated that "four males of each variety taken for comparison, show that the western bird is sufficiently lighter in coloration to make field identification easy and certain in favorable light." Similarly, Burleigh (Occas. Papers Mus. Zool., La. State Univ., No. 20, 329-490, 1944) noted that a female collected on Deer Island, Mississippi, "was easily recognized by its pale coloration." A useful "rule of thumb" that I would suggest for field students in the southeast is this: any meadowlark whose V-shaped breast marking is light to medium gray, rather than dark gray to black, might have a general pallor

and would certainly be worth checking more closely. Lanyon's words of caution, however, need to be borne in mind. In establishing definite records of the Western Meadowlark, at least in the near future, it would seem necessary not only that one observe the seemingly distinctive plumage but also that one hear the characteristic call notes (or song) of *neglecta*, or else that one substantiate his record with an actual specimen. For all these difficulties of identification, it seems desirable, particularly in view of the recent northeastward extension of this species' breeding range, that we keep a sharp lookout for it as a winter visitant in the southeastern United States.—ROBERT A. NORRIS (*University of Georgia Ecological Studies, AEC Savannah River Plant area*), 1918 Hahn Avenue, Aiken, South Carolina.

Mass Bathing by Migrating Cowbirds—During the morning of October 27, 1957, the author was studying the behavior of a flock of more than 5000 Common Cowbirds about 7 miles west of Raleigh, N. C. Two thousand of these birds had arrived in the area ahead of a cold front which passed Raleigh during the preceding day. The rest of the birds came in during the night of October 26-27.

This flock of cowbirds was feeding voraciously in a ten acre field of ripe milo in company with some 2000 English Starlings and 100 House Sparrows. Around ten o'clock most of the birds finished feeding and scattered in large flocks over the surrounding area where they occupied themselves in preening and resting.

One of these flocks containing about 500 birds, settled on and beside a clay road which they literally covered. Bordering this road was a small ditch approximately two feet deep containing a small puddle of muddy water about an inch deep and twenty yards long. A few birds began bathing in this puddle and within minutes the bottom of the ditch was a seething mass of birds almost hidden from view by a reddish haze of spray flung up by their wings. As birds finished bathing and left the ditch, they were instantly replaced by birds from the road. At times there were so many birds entering the ditch from the road as others left it on the opposite side, that the effect was that of a black mass flowing down into the ditch on one side and up the other side.

The birds engaged in this activity for nearly fifteen minutes until disturbed by a car on the road. Even then, they were so reluctant to leave the ditch that the car had to come to an almost complete stop and move very slowly in order to keep from killing many of them.—JOHN B. FUNDERBURG, *Dept. of Zoology, N. C. State College*.

Dickcissel at Charlotte Feeder—During the first week of March, 1958, my friend Morton L. Church called me to say that a Dickcissel had been appearing frequently on the back porch of his residence in Charlotte. He had first noticed it Jan. 6. At the first opportunity, March 19, I went to his house accompanied by my brother, E. Burnham Chamberlain. As predicted, the bird appeared just before 5 p.m., and, together with Mr. and Mrs. Church, we were able to watch it at length at distances as close as ten feet while it ate grain from the stone floor of the porch along with a group of White-throated Sparrows, Purple Finches and Pine Siskins. It was a male in fairly bright plumage. The black V at the breast was particularly conspicuous against the yellow. The eye-stripe was clearly defined but rather dull. Mr. Church later informed me that he saw it last on April 6th. Incidentally, the group of Pine Siskins feeding with it were the darkest any of us had ever before seen and we had no explanation of that fact. The Church's home is in a fine and long established residential section of the city with heavy and well-kept tree and shrub growth. The only open area near by is a golf course about one-half mile away. *The Chat* records one to two appearances of Dickcissels in the Carolinas yearly since 1952. For a previous Charlotte record (Norwood) see the issue of June 1956.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews, N. C., Apr. 11, 1958*.

High Return Rate in Greensboro Banding—For the past two years I have been doing some limited banding in my back yard. In March and April of 1957, I banded fifteen White-throated Sparrows. In January of this year (1958) I again put up my trap and within a few days' time I had five returns from the fifteen White-throats I had banded the previous spring. I think that this 33% return is remarkable. The details follow:

<i>Band No.</i>	<i>Date Banded</i>	<i>Date Recaptured</i>	<i>Sex</i>
24-104506	3-17-'57	1-21-'58	female
24-104508	3-25-'57	1-18-'58	female
24-104515	4- 8-'57	1-18-'58	female
24-104518	4- 9-'57	1-18-'58	male
24-104520	4-10-'57	2-17-'58	female

—LARRY A. CRAWFORD, JR., *Greensboro, N. C. Mar. 7, 1958*

Briefs for the Files.

Canada Goose, 11 were in the first flock arriving at Anderson's pond, Rocky Mount, N. C., Oct. 12, Bill Joyner. **Snow Goose**, Refuge Mgr. L. B. Turner estimated 7250 at Pea Island, N. C., Nov. 24-30. **American Golden-eye**, a male was killed near Laurinburg, Nov. 20, when it apparently mistook a highway surface for a body of water, Ed Lyon. **Broad-winged Hawks**, Dr. & Mrs. T. W. Simpson counted 274 passing over their yard at Winston-Salem, some 50 miles southeast of their normal mountain route. **Bald Eagle**, an immature bird was killed by a farmer between McColl and Clio, S. C., in early December, identified and reported by Gilbert Bristow. **King Rail**, immature female picked up in downtown Raleigh and taken to the State Museum, Sept. 20, H. T. Davis. **Virginia Rail**, 1 recorded by J. R. Norwood was killed at WSOC-TV tower, Charlotte, about Oct. 4. It was found Oct. 19. **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 1 at Old Town near Rocky Mt., Aug. 8 and 2 at nearby Anderson's pond, Aug. 15, in company with Greater Yellowlegs, Bill Joyner. **Stilt Sandpiper**, 1 at Wilmington, Aug. 25 & 27, Barney Barnhill. **Avocets**, 12-15 in Winyah Bay at Georgetown, S. C., for a week or more in mid-December. Seen by R. D. Edwards, Dec. 11. **Great Black-backed Gull**, 1 about Charleston harbor again this winter, E. Burnham Chamberlain. **Forster's Tern**, 4 at Anderson's pond, Rocky Mt., Sept. 8. This is the fourth local record. Joyner. **Whip-poor-will**, at Hillsboro, N. C., Sept. 21, Charles H. Blake. **Nighthawks**, two groups totaling 49 flying southward over Charlotte, Sept. 10, JRN; about 50 over Nash Co., Aug. 20, last seen there, Sept. 10, Joyner. **Chimney Swifts**, last seen at Rocky Mt., Oct. 11. **Western Kingbird**, 1 at Bay Point, Edisto Beach, S. C., discovered by Fred May and later shown to a group including the Atwoods and others. **Wood Thrush**, 1 heard at Rocky Mt., Sept. 24, Joyner. **Olive-backed** and **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were reported in heavy migration over North Wilkesboro, Sept. 18 and 19. WPS. **Olive-backed Thrush**, the arrival and departure noted as Sept. 20 and Oct. 9 at Hillsboro, by Dr. Blake. **Philadelphia Vireo**, 1 at North Wilkesboro, Aug. 19, Wendell P. Smith. **Golden-winged Warbler**, 1 at North Wilkesboro, Aug. 17, WPS; 1 at Hillsboro, N. C., Sept. 18. **Nashville Warbler**, 2 at Wilmington, Oct. 5, Cecil Appleberry. **Cape May Warbler**, 1 banded at Effingham, S. C., Nov. 7, by E. C. Clyde, reported by Robert Overing. **Myrtle Warbler**, first seen at Rocky Mt., Oct. 3, Joyner. **Yellow-breasted Chat**, 1 at feeder in yard at Henderson, N. C., 8:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m., Jan. 3, 1958. Mrs. A. W. Bachman. **Bobolink**, numerous in cotton fields in Robeson County, N. C., Aug. 28, Norwood. **Indigo Bunting**, last at North Wilkesboro, Oct. 7, WPS; last noted at Hillsboro, Oct. 21, CHB. **Savannah Sparrow**, first of the winter at Watson's farm near Rocky Mt., Sept. 15, Joyner. **Song Sparrow**, present and singing at Salisbury, Rowan County, N. C., all summer. No nest found. Mr. & Mrs. J. R. N.

All dates 1957 except as noted.

(These Briefs were held over from the March issue. Briefs turned in since will be carried in the Sept. Chat.—Ed.)

BOOK REVIEWS

The Birds of Rockbridge County, Virginia,

New Honor for Dr. J. J. Murray

Dr. Murray, charter member of CBC and author of *Falcon in the Sky*, which was reprinted in the March 1958 issue of *The Chat*, has recently completed *The Birds of Rockbridge County, Virginia*.

Published by the Virginia Society of Ornithology, as Virginia Avifauna Number 1, December 1957, this annotated list includes 264 species and subspecies recorded in Rockbridge County over a period of 30 years. A map of Rockbridge County is also included, as well as an introductory article on the ecology of that county.

Copies of this report may be obtained postpaid from F. R. Scott, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond 26, Va., at 50¢ each.

[Recalling our keen interest in *Falcon in the Sky*, here is a little story about it: A copy of the March 1958 *Chat* was sent to Mrs. Emaline Dobbins in Atlanta, Ga. While she was reading *Falcon in the Sky* a friend came calling. Emaline entreated her caller to lend her her ears and she read the article to her. The friend begged for the loan of *The Chat* as she was entertaining the Menaboni's that evening. After dinner the household and guests gathered 'round and "The Falcon" was read aloud. Athos and Sara Menaboni pronounced it a very profound and moving thing, and everyone thanks you, Dr. Murray!—Ed.]

• • •

CBC Annual Meeting at Henderson, N. C.

Fifty-one members and guests attended the annual meeting of the Carolina Bird Club at Henderson, N. C. on March 22-23, 1958, with the Henderson Bird Club as hosts.

Saturday morning was devoted to the business session held at the headquarters in the beautiful new E. M. Rollins school. Officers elected for the coming year were: President—Mrs. Cecil Appleberry; Vice-Presidents—Gilbert J. Bristow, Charlotte Hilton Green and Joseph R. Norwood; Secretary—Mrs. George C. Potter; Treasurer—W. L. Hamnett; Executive Committee—B. R. Chamberlain, R. D. Edwards, Miss Rosa Lee Hart and George A. Smith. A delicious barbecue lunch, courtesy the Henderson club, was served at Satterwhite's Point, Kerr Lake, Vance County.

The afternoon session consisted of a panel on "Outdoor Education" with W. L. Hamnett, Mrs. Margaret Wall, Miss Gladys Baker and Miss Ethel McNairy participating. Their discussion on what is being done and can be done toward educating our children to a better appreciation of "Wild America" was most inspiring. President Green again stressed the need for protection of our hawks and owls.

President Green presided over the Saturday night dinner held in the school cafeteria. The charming favors, hand-painted papier-maché birds made by Misses Garnette Myers and Agnes Pegram with assistance from Miss Mariel Gary, aroused much comment. Jack Dermid, N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission, spoke on "Behind The Scenes With A Bird Photographer" and illustrated his talk with some of his famous pictures.

Sunday morning members gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Bachman for breakfast and were treated with the sight of Evening Grosbeaks at the Bachman feeder! Afterwards more birding was enjoyed at Satterwhite's Point. Mrs. R. T. Upchurch, President of the Henderson Club, and her committees deserve much credit for the success of the meeting.

—Joseph R. Norwood.



Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	\$1.00	Contributing	\$25.00
Supporting	\$5.00	Affiliated Club	\$2.00
Life—\$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)			

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

Officers for 1958-59

President: Mrs. Cecil Appleberry, 5 Lake Forest Pkway, Wilmington, N. C.

Vice-Presidents: Gilbert J. Bristow, 2921 Blossom St., Columbia, S. C.;
Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Green, 3320 White Oak Rd., Raleigh, N. C.;
Joseph R. Norwood, 1329 Greenwood Ave., Charlotte 5, N. C.

Secretary: Mrs. George C. Potter, 2111 Malvern Rd., Charlotte 7, N. C.

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News Letter Editor: Harry T. Davis, N. C. State Museum, Raleigh, N. C.

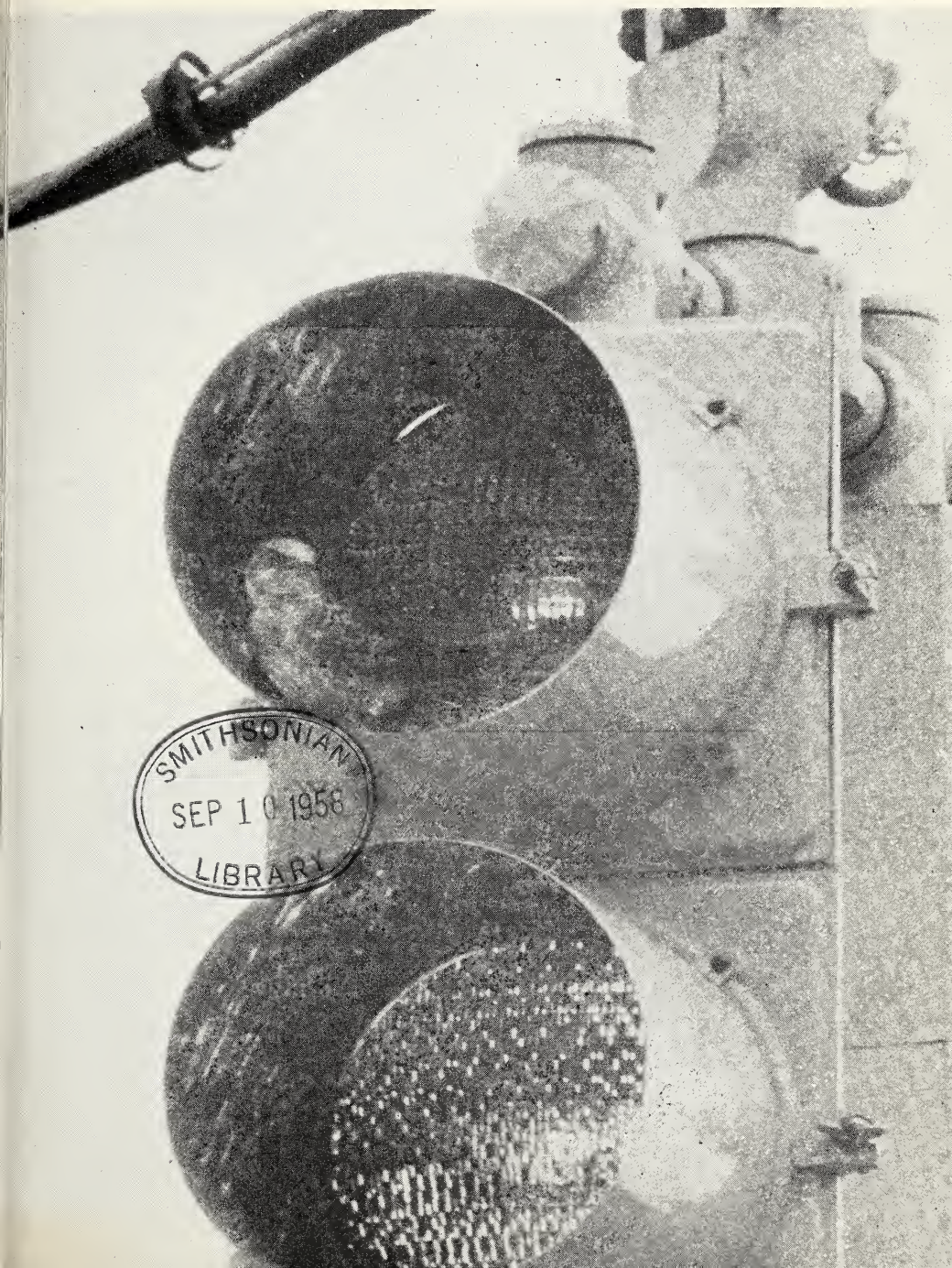
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Cover Photograph.—Purple Martin and nest in traffic light, Charleston, S. C. (June, 1957) Photo by Post-Courier staff photographer. See GFN, page 70.

EVENING GROSBEAKS FLY SOUTH AGAIN

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN

In the spring of 1952 the writer sketched the history of Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) and described the first known substantial flight to reach the Carolinas. The present paper reviews observations in our area since 1952 and reports in some detail the recent extensive irruption of 1957-58. The data presented for the Carolinas and Georgia come from personal letters and cards, the Virginia occurrences are taken from a report by Robert O. Paxton in *The Raven*. A personal letter from Mrs. B. M. Shaub and numerous Shaub reprints have filled the gaps.

REVIEW

In the flight of 1951-52, reported penetration reached Greenville, S. C., some 200 miles inland and 1000 ft., above sea level. The main body came down in upper Piedmont of N. C., January 5 and remained in the general area in dwindling numbers through the first week of May. During the following two winters they were not noted below Virginia and Pennsylvania but in November of 1954 Evening Grosbeaks were with us again in force. Penetration extended from the sea coast at Wilmington westward through Columbia, North Augusta, S. C., and Macon, Ga. In a marked departure from the usual pattern, there was a major irruption during the succeeding winter (1955-56) and this time the birds were on the coast to within nine miles of Charleston. This was a relatively brief incursion (Feb. 1-Apr. 17) in the Piedmont, the sojourn at Roan Mt., on the N. C.-Tenn. line being somewhat longer. In the winter of 1956-57 no flights were recorded south of Connecticut.

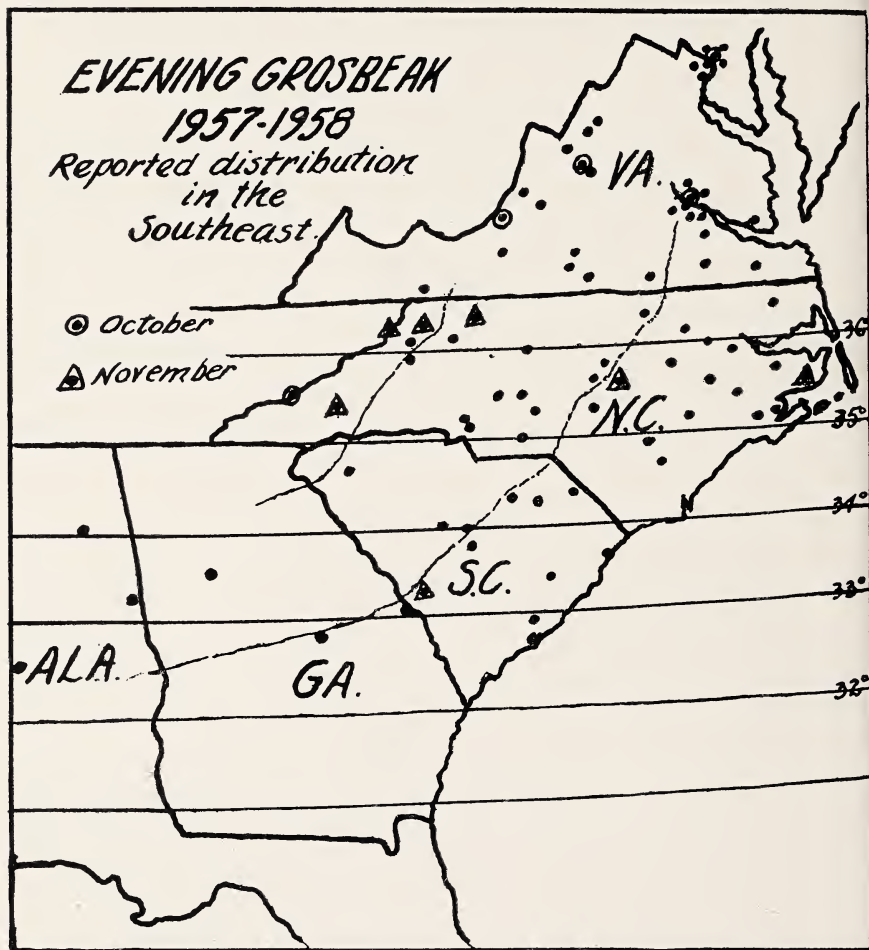
THE 1957-58 FLIGHT

In last winter's flight, the most extensive yet to be recorded, Grosbeaks were "everywhere" and they were with us from the end of October through the middle of May. The accompanying map gives the reported distribution. An appendix lists the major details. It is likely that a few reports went uncharted. Certainly, many observations went unreported. From what we received, it seems safe to state that a sufficiently interested observer could have found Evening Grosbeaks in most places over the Carolinas at some time during the past winter.

During the past seven winters just noted, we have witnessed four good flights and we have seen that each in turn has overreached the boundaries of the one before. But why? Possibly the answer is in what happened during the past six summers. Did the grosbeaks go back to base between flights? *Many of them did not*. During the summer of 1953 there were 33 reports of Evening Grosbeaks east or north of New York! There had been but 11 such reports during all the summers before 1953. These summer colonies are holding their own, at least. Banding recoveries may soon tell us that the individuals that establish the greatest southward penetration do so from no more distant points than the lower New England states.

In spite of our opportunities we have added but little to our knowledge of Evening Grosbeaks. As for the causes behind the wild flights, if progress toward a solution has been made, it is in the direction of eliminating the

"obvious" ones. The case for *weather* as a direct cause can hardly be supported. The case for *food* has been weakened in numerous instances. *Overproduction* has not been disproved as a factor but it has often been observed in species that do not resort to mass flight. It seems probable that the real cause behind the Evening Grosbeak's wanderlust has not yet been suggested. The arrival itself is odd. They are not recorded to come in progressively as normal migrants do. They "splash in" as if shot over a high trajectory and the first bird down is as apt as not to overshoot the target for a record penetration.



APPENDIX

Occurrences for the 1957-58 flight to the Carolinas and Georgia follow. Some comments on sex ratio, food and behavior are included. The listings are arranged in a general north to south order for our Mountain, Piedmont and Coastal divisions.

Mountains.

Jefferson, N. C. 1, Apr. 29 (the first since 1952) Mrs. A. B. Hurt.

Boone, on Lenoir Hwy., appx. 75, Nov. 7. Mrs. Ray H. Ford.

Roan Mt., N. C. side, alt. 5600 ft. 2 or 3, Nov. 2. Fred W. Behrend.

Asheville, 15, Nov. 20. Allan Cruickshank.

Newfound Gap, 1, Oct. 30. Vernon C. Gilbert (by Arthur Stupka).

Piedmont.

Henderson, N. C. 10, Dec. 30; 5, Dec. 31. Remained through most of winter until May 6. Of 9, May 3, 4 were males. Mrs. A. W. Bachman, Miss Garnette Myers.

Elkin, 1, Nov. 27; 10, Dec. 27; 6, Feb. 15-22; 1 female, May 14. Linville Hendren.

Durham, 1, Jan. 23, a female; pr. Feb. 11-13; 2 pr. Feb. 15, 3 pr. Feb. 23; 16 to 20 daily, Feb. 24 to Apr. 19. A female seen eating Elm blossoms, Apr. 2. Mrs. W. C. Davison. From mid-Jan., to mid-Mar., at feeders; 2, Apr. 24, Hallam Walker. Finally left, May 3, Mrs. Geo. C. Pyne, Jr.

Greensboro, 20 to 25, week before Christmas, Larry Crawford; 18, Dec. 24, same flock, Jan. 27 almost daily except during heavy snow (Feb. 14-17) through Apr. 30, 1 male until May 5, Mrs. C. E. Breckenridge.

North Wilkesboro, Approx. 50, Apr. 23; 2, May 2, Wendell P. Smith.

Lenoir, 1 female, Dec. 3, Fred May, Mrs. C. S. Warren, Mrs. Tina Bernard.

Raleigh, about 300, 10 mi. NW, Nov. 17 and 18 feeding on Tulip Poplar seed; 120 at same place, Nov. 22, but none present there, Feb. 9; smaller flocks later in Feb. and Mar., Alva H. Harris (by T. L. Quay); at Raleigh feeder, Jan. 4, building up to about 60 by end of Jan. Higher ratio of males than ever before: 40 to 50%. Several flocks of around 200 in Raleigh, some with bands, T. L. Quay; 1, Dec. 10, 3, Dec. 11 at feeder of Mrs. W. H. Hammett (by Harry T. Davis); 35-50 at Umstead State Park near Raleigh, Jan. 25, 26, eating Southern Sugar Maple seed, William Craven (by H. T. Davis); 1 at bird bath, yard of Miss Virginia Pickell, Mar. 22; 10 to 12 at feeder of Mrs. James McKee, Apr. 16.

Southern Pines, 1 female, Feb. 19, population built up gradually with peak of 75-100, Mar. 8, finally left, May 5. Daily checks of small groups that totaled 108 birds, had 44 males, or 41% (see Raleigh). These birds were not fed sunflower seed. They ate Carolina Cherry, Holly, Dogwood and other berries and dry bread crust. The Feb. 9 observation by Mrs. Ethel Wotten, the others by Miss Mary Keller Wintyen.

New London, 5, Dec. 30; 4, 20-25, spent the winter, last seen, May 10, Mrs. John N. Whitlock.

Wadesboro, "Here in numbers for the past two weeks" Feb. 10, a male had a band on one leg, Mrs. James H. Clack. One was collected, Feb. 10, ten mi., NW of Wadesboro, by Lacy McAlister.

Charlotte, flock of about 11 arrived early Feb., disappeared briefly during severe freeze. Finally left May 4, ate great quantity of sunflower seed, Mrs. Hill B. Wellford; also a flock at the home of Mrs. J. E. Moore; 1 adult male found in street, Mar. 11, skin prepared, weight, 56.3 gm. B. R. Chamberlain; 3 males, 2 females, Apr. 24 to 30 at city feeder of Mrs. B. D. Hendrix.

Greenville, 1 male on Paris Mt., Dec. 29, Rosa Lee Hart; 2, Apr. 2 to 5 at Mrs. W. C. Coleman's feeder, James B. Shuler.

Camden, S. C., flock of 40-50 and a flock of about 75 in city yards, Feb. 9, E. J. Wellborn.

Columbia, several flocks numbering 300 plus, total, at Salem Cross-roads, Fairfield Co., Jan. 26, Mrs. J. B. Frazier, Jr.; 8 at Peake, Fairfield Co., Feb. 27 through Mar. 4, Gilbert Bristow; 1 male with band, Columbia, Dec. 30 and 2 females, Jan. 9, J. McT. Daniel; more than 20, Mar. 20 and 21, Alan and Mrs. Hoke Robinson.

Eatonton, Ga., large numbers, Eagle Rock Park, Feb. 3, seen frequently during April, 15 on May 1 and a male and a female, May 2, Frank W. Fitch, Jr.

Atlanta, first spotted in March, W. W. Griffin, a few appearances, last noted, 3, Apr. 27, Richard Parks.

Thomson, 30 mi. west of Augusta, female or subadult male collected, Feb. 4 by Henry Hunt (by J. Fred Denton).

Rome, 1 m., Feb. 15; 2 birds Feb. 20 on. Some banded. Gordon L. Hight, Jr., (by Mrs. Ben P. Clark).

Gadsden, Ala. First, 1 m, Jan. 20; 2-3 until Feb. 15; none during severe cold; 3 f., 2 m., Feb. 24; about 50 across street, Feb. 25; several daily until Apr. 24; banded 32 m., 33 f., during period, Mrs. Ben P. Clark.

Randolph Co., (near Ga. line). 1 m., Apr. 10, report by Mrs. Clark.

Livingston, 32½° N., 88¼° W., near Miss. line, by Mrs. Clark.

Coastal.

Jackson, N. C., Several doz., Jan. 3, Mrs. Eric Norfleet; 5, Mar. 18, eating peanuts dropped by starlings and grackles, Miss Reba Long (by Roy Parker, Jr.).

Ahoskie, about 50, Dec. 29; 5, Jan. 2, remained for some days, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fike (by R. P., Jr.).

Windsor, bedraggled flock, Dec. 1, Mrs. Richard Gatling (by R. P., Jr.).

Wilson, group, Feb. 24 at feeder, 8 with bands! Mrs. W. T. Lamm, by J. W. E. Joyner.

Rocky Mount, 2 males, 1 female at feeder, Dec. 13 & 14, the Harry Pearsalls (extremely cold days).

New Bern, 2, Feb. 16-19; 300-400, Feb. 20, and a great many until May 2; 1 female until May 15, Mr. & Mrs. Fred D. Conderman.

Washington, flock from Jan. 25 through Feb., returned Mar. 15, Mrs. Leroy Carver.

Mattamuskeet, 35-40, Nov. 22, Royston Rudolph.

Wilminaton, 9 males, 3 females, Feb. 15, John Irvine *et al.*

Fayetteville, 1, Dec. 15; built up by Jan. 15 to approx., 100 total at 4 locations; new flock, Mar. 14; last seen, Apr. 25. Fed on sunflower seed, apple, orange, "bacon fat and corn meal mix." Mrs. Roscoe Hauser, Jr.

Mount Olive, "present this winter," Mrs. Elizabeth Wooten Holmes.

Dillon, S. C., 30-40, Feb. 25 & 27, a few, Mar. 19, Arch McCallum.

Hartsville, 2 males, Jan. 8; 20, January 13, "huge flocks since." letter dated, Mar. 19, Mrs. K. G. Kuehner.

Florence, 4-5 flocks, 12 to 48 in each, Jan. 15, Lucas M. Dargan.

Kingstree, several this winter—no date—Jimmy Rogers.

McClellanville, 1 pr., Jan. 8; 1 female Jan. 9 & 10, Robert D. Edwards.

Mount Holly, 1 male. Feb. 26 at Medway Plantation, Brooke Meanley.

Charleston, 2, Feb. 14; approx., 60, Mar. 3. Of 39 checked, 5 (13%) were males. 2 had bands (1 recovered, a female, banded, Feb. 12, '56 at West Hartford, Conn., by E. A. Bergstrom), Theo. A. Beckett, III.

Aiken, 1 male, Nov. 19, Mrs. Helen S. Hatcher.

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BIRDING IN THE YUCATAN—PART II

JAMES B. SHULER, JR.

Through a great bit of luck we met in Piste a young man from Ohio who had been in the Yucatan for four years collecting butterflies. He had not only learned to speak Spanish like a native, but had also mastered Mayan. He offered to let us accompany him on a collecting trip to a tiny village in the rain forest of the Territory of Quintana Roo, and we accepted with alacrity.

The name of this village is X-can, a Mayan word for snake. It is pronounced Sh-Caan. In the Mayan language an "X" is often added to a word to soften a harsh sound.

A short time after we arrived, our friend escorted us to a hut where strangers could purchase a meal. We were led through the main room of the hut to a lean-to at the back. A small fire was burning in one corner and above the fire swung gently a platform of green sticks. Quite identifiable, by the head and feet, were six Curassows, *Crax rubra*. The Curassow is possibly the most magnificent gallinaceous bird of the Americas. The heads of these birds had not been picked clean of feathers, and though charred, the beautiful curly crest still suggested something of the beauty of the living bird. We did not have long to contemplate this exotic food as it cooked, for soon three large helpings had been pulled from the bones and were placed before us. An extremely tart orange was served with the Curassow, and hunger combined with a desire not to offend led us to eat heartily. It was our only brush with the Curassow, for in the short time we stayed in X-can we were not able to push far enough into the jungle to see the heavily hunted bird alive.

After getting settled in the thatch-hut which our friend arranged for us, we began to see a completely new group of birds. While waiting at the community well for someone to come by with a rope and bucket (equipment we had elected to try to borrow, rather than bring with us) we saw a pair of Thick-billed Euphonias, *Tanagra lauta*, flying from tree to tree. The Euphonias, a group of small, short billed tanagers, are wonderfully adapted to a diet of mistletoe berries. The digestive tract is simply a straight wide tube, allowing the berries to pass through almost undamaged. But the outer parts of the berries, a sticky viscid covering enabling the seeds to stick to the limb of a prospective host until germination can take place, are partially absorbed to provide the Euphonias with nourishment.

Our friend assembled his nets and envelopes for preserving butterflies and led us down an old lumber road. To the children of X-can, our friend was familiar. They had watched him chasing the "mariposas" many times. George and I, with our field glasses, telephoto lenses, bird books, and our practice of collecting snails, must have seemed as alien as spacemen. All of the boys old enough to leave their mothers' immediate supervision tagged along. As soon as they detected that birds were our object they began to throw rocks and shout as loud as they could. Our friend had wandered off along a side trail and so we were left with a howling mob and no translator. However, an authoritative scowl or two and a few threatening ges-

tures calmed them and soon they were following quietly behind, anxious to point out anything we might miss, but respecting our wishes for silence. On the way back we were to be well rewarded, ornithologically, for allowing them to come along.

High in the tall mahogany trees we spotted a pair of Blue Honeycreepers, *Cyanerpes cyaneus*. The male of this species is truly a tropical jewel. Its bright red legs show up vividly in contrast with the light blue and dark purple of the plumage. The male was always seen following the dull green female. Skutch, in his *Life Histories of Central American Birds*, observed that the male followed the female trip for trip when she was gathering nesting material, but never actually did any work.

Yellow-green Vireos, *Vireo flavoviridis* were common, and in what seemed to be territorial activity two, three, and even four-way conflicts developed between individuals. They displayed vigorously at each other with widely spread tails. I felt that if territories existed, they must be very small. Perhaps there is a natural law that the nearer one approaches the tropics the smaller territories become.

Black Catbirds, *Melanoptila glabrirostris*, were seen several times. They looked like examples of the familiar Catbird which had suddenly exchanged their soft gray feathers for a costume of shiny black satin. Their wheezy, jumbled song did not register with us as being greatly different from that of *Dumetella carolinensis*. They frequented the more open parts of the forest.

A bird of a rich brown color and moth-like flight fluttered across the road and perched in full view on the trunk of a tree. It was the Ruddy Woodhewer, *Dendrocincla homochroa*, and this was our first look at the family Dendrocolaptidae. The Woodhewers are confined to the New World tropics. If, through some strange circumstance, a double sized Brown Creeper should be seen in Yucatan forests it would surely be identified as a Woodhewer. Actually the family is closely related to the Woodpeckers.

A few of our escort of boys and dogs had become bored and had a head start on the rest of us when we started back for the village. We noticed them ahead in an excited group, pointing to something off the trail. We gathered that they were looking at a bird so we rushed to where they stood. They were shouting "E-pip, E-pip."

Through a break in the undergrowth we saw a large nest about sixty feet up in a tall tree. Perched on this nest was the most spectacular hawk I ever expect to see. The startlingly patterned Crested Eagle Hawk, *Spizäetus ornatus*, watched us with calm dignity, yet conveyed an impression of wildness and suspicion. A long black crest and a white throat outlined in black, marked its head. The long rounded tail was boldly barred, as were the underparts. The legs were long and feathered to the toes. A deep brown and black back completed the plumage.

The nest was a mass of sticks and small limbs. Some, near the top of the structure had leaves attached to the twigs, which led us to suspect that they had been placed there green. The whole thing was so massive that it must have been added to year after year. It was four to five feet across and slightly over three feet deep.

In the nest was a single young Eagle Hawk. It was fully as large as its parent. Except for the back and wings, which showed some black, it was

entirely white. Already that magnificent crest had begun to develop. The young, and possibly the adult, were calling. In the excitement of the discovery of the nest I did not clearly note whether the old bird used the same cry as the young one. The voice reminded us strongly of the voice of Ospreys.

I spent many hours in the following days beneath the nest, hoping to photograph the adult, but with no success. Though I tried to hide in the underbrush, the young Eagle Hawk nevertheless detected my presence. He would stand on the edge of the nest and look intently down on my hiding place. Occasionally he would give his shrill "kew, kew, kew". I think that it was thus that the adult knew of my whereabouts and refused to return.

Dean Amadon and Don Eckelberry say of the Eagle Hawks: "They seem fairly closely related to the true eagles of the genus *Aquila*, but they are even more predatory in habits, and, unlike the eagles, are never carrion-feeders. Some of the tropical eagles, and this is especially true of those belonging to the pan-tropical genus *Spizaetus*, have the proportions of a classical hawk (*Accipiter*). For this reason they are known in books on the birds of the Old World as Hawk-eagles. In America this term has unfortunately become transposed into Eagle-hawks. Since uniformity is desirable and since these birds are certainly deserving of the name eagle, we suggest that the form Hawk-eagle be used uniformly."

Those long cramped hours beneath the Eagle Hawk's nest were not entirely wasted. I kept hearing a beautiful song. Its rich musical notes seemed to form the words "chic-O-la, chic-O-la, chic-O-la". The singer kept moving around in the thick undergrowth, and only occasionally did I catch sight of a reddish bird, slightly smaller than a Cardinal. Unfortunately I did not have Blake's book with me, or I would have known that I was seeing one of two Ant-Tanagers. They are not easy to distinguish in the field. The Red Ant-Tanager, *Habia rubica*, has a red crown bordered with black, while the Rosy-throated Ant-Tanager, *Habia gutturalis*, has a bright throat. Both birds occur in the forest of Quintana Roo.

Skutch described the song of one Red Ant-Tanager as sounding like "peter, peter, peter", and another like "peter-bird, peter-bird" and yet another as seeming to sing the word "intervene" over and over. This was a dawn-song and, according to Skutch, delivered later in the day only under unusual circumstances.

The pitch of the song of the bird I heard rose toward the end of each group of notes. It was singing between 9:00 and 11:00 A.M. I have been unable to locate a description of the song of the Rosy-throated Ant-tanager in the literature available to me.

When it became obvious that I was going to have no luck at the Eagle Hawk nest, I made my way back out to the logger's road. Just as I stepped out of the thick tangle that covered that part of the forest, George called out that he was watching a Squirrel Cuckoo, *Piaya cayana*. It was moving from perch to perch in the middle layer of the forest. In my notes I wrote of the startling contrast between the cool gray of the abdomen and the warm red brown of the upper parts. Blake states that the abdomen of eastern form is decidedly dusky; that of the western more nearly pearl gray.

It was a larger bird than I had imagined; including that long bulky tail it measures nineteen inches, exceeding the length of Common Crows.

The X-can forest was rich in species of woodpeckers. In quick succession we were treated with views of the Guatemalan Ivory-billed Woodpecker, *Phloeocastes guatemalensis*, the beautiful Red-capped Green Woodpecker, *Piculus rubiginosus*, and the rather ordinary Ladder-backed Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos scalaris*. *Piculus rubiginosus* was the subject of a lovely plate by Sutton which appeared in the Wilson Bulletin. Really good pictures of Mexican birds in color are scattered among many different publications and books. It is difficult to get an over-all idea of the appearance of the different species without doing a great deal of searching of the various sources.

The Yucatan Woodpecker and the Tropical Pileated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus lineatus*, were also present.

We added a second Woodhewer, the Tawny-winged Woodhewer, *Dendrocicla anabatina*. The Woodhewers are all brownish birds and do not differ greatly in appearance from each other.

The area yielded both the Masked Tityra, *Tityra semifasciata*, and the Black-capped Tityra, *Erator inquisitor*. The Black-capped Tityras were in the trees along the village paths. It is gray and black and its bill is totally black. Later, in the forest, we saw the Masked Tityra. It has a bare face which is red, and a bi-colored bill. A group of Masked Tityras were feeding on some red berries high in a tree. One grasped a berry in its bill and swung free until the berry popped off. The notes of the Masked Tityra reminded me of the call of Cricket Frogs.

Later in the afternoon we were returning to the village when we heard some strange cries in the jungle. Rather wistfully we wondered about the author of such noises when suddenly, perched in full view on a bare limb, appeared a Collared Araçari Toucan, *Pteroglossus torquatus*. In a few moments it had flown on, but it left with me an indelible picture of a grotesque bird, whose breast was a confused mixture of bright reds and yellows and black markings. It moved its head alertly, as though its monster of a beak were really very light. Skutch, in his incomparable *Life Histories*, mentions that the Toucans, though fruit eaters, are great plunderers of nests. Perhaps even then this brightly plumed rogue was looking for eggs or newly hatched nestlings, and some greenish female of a small species crouched low in her nest, hoping to escape the noisy marauder's eyes.

As we were preparing to leave X-can we had a few moments which we used to study the Southern House Wren, *Troglodytes musculus*. It was singing from a pole which supported the ridge of a thatched roof. One has to look closely for the differences of feather which distinguish it from the Northern House Wren. It is often seen in the vicinity of buildings, from the city of Merida to the jungle villages.

The Tropical Pewee, *Contopus cinereus*, almost matches its northern counterpart, too. When we saw it along the lumber road a mile or two from X-can we could almost imagine the deciduous woodlands of the Piedmont. This feeling could not last long. It was put to flight by the appearance of a Blue Honeycreeper and seconds later, a Boat-billed Flycatcher, *Megarhynchus pitangua*.

MAYAN NAMES

When the children called the Eagle Hawk "E-pip", we wondered if this name applied to birds generally, hawks, or even particular species. On the ride from X-can to Chichen Itza we got a chance to find out. A very friendly young Indian did not let our limited Spanish deter his interest in carrying on a conversation. He would ask long questions over and over again and I wouldn't understand a word. Finally, in self-defense, I took a copy of Blake and asked him the names of some of the birds illustrated. He cooperated beautifully, and later, when we had the friend who led us to X-can check the names with some of his Mayan cousins, we found that our companion on the bus had been very accurate. The list which follows is the result of cross checking the two sources. The letters are pronounced as in Spanish.

Yu-yum—an oriole	Pujuy—A goatsucker
Toh—Motmot	Chac Tzizib—Cardinal
X-Kok—Clay-colored Robin	Bach—Chachalaca
Xoch—Earless owl	Tzum-u'un—Hummingbird
Tut—any parrot	Mucuy—Ground Dove
Tun-cul-u-chhu—biggest eared owls	Tzu Tzuy—Large Doves
Ki-li—White-fronted Parrot	Chel—Yucatan Jay
Pich (pronounced peach)—Groove- billed Ani	Ta-Tak—Woodhewers
Kau—Red-eyed Cowbird	Comote — Guatemalan Ivory-billed Woodpecker
Chem—Vulture (probably the Black Vulture)	Chipish—Ladder-back Woodpecker
E-pip—Eagle Hawk	Cha-jud—Tropical Pileated Wood- pecker
Cuzam—Swallow	Bucab—Pigmy Owl
Cutz—Wild Turkey	Panchel—Collared Aracari Toucan

PROGRESO, JUNE 5, 1958

In the mangrove swamp behind Progreso, a mystery which had begun a week before was solved. Before we left for Chichen Itza we made an early morning visit to the square in the heart of Merida to look at the Lesser Goldfinches, *Spinus psaltria*, which had been seen there. We spotted a warbler in the low shrubbery and as it was not at all shy, we got very good looks at it. The description in my notes is as follows: "It had a reddish throat, reminding me of the color of the cheek patches of the Cape May Warbler, the crown was dark and the breast yellowish (Pine Warbler color) and faintly streaked. No wing-bars and some white or yellow on the tail." We read the descriptions of all the warblers occurring in Yucatan, but neglected to look closely at the accounts of the sub-species.

When a warbler-sized bird flew into a bush on the edge of the mangroves, we moved in for a close look. There was our mysterious bird again. This time the head was entirely chestnut color, but we felt sure we were looking at the same species. Then the solution came to us. It was the Yellow Warbler! But what a difference from the bird we knew back in South Carolina. Here is a subspecies which certainly merits a common name of its own, if not the rank of a full species.

When we heard the song the close relationship with the Eastern Yellow Warbler was evident. To our ears the two songs seemed identical.

The Vermilion Flycatcher was common at Progreso. We saw seven or eight pairs. The display of the male, presumably on the breeding territory,

was a thing of beauty. The bright red bird would fly about thirty feet above the ground. It held its wings higher than its body, and, with the feathers fluffed out to the maximum it looked like a flaming pompon below the whirring wings. All the while it twittered excitedly.

The females were marked strongly enough with red to be easily identified even if they had not been associated with the brilliant males. They were much more rosy than the illustrations in some bird books show.

In one of the creeks that wound through the mangrove tangles we got a real surprise. An American Coot swam placidly in the quiet water. We were using a taxi and had a hard time getting our driver to stop so that we could use our field glasses. When he comprehended that we wanted to look at birds, we found it difficult to keep him from stopping for every bird we saw.

We pulled up at a high spot on the salty swale. A few trees were growing and there were several thickets in the area. Here we found Eastern Meadow Larks and Mangrove Swallows, *Iridoprocne albilinea*. A nondescript sparrow which sang persistently in a restricted area we decided was the Peten Sparrow, *Aimophila petenica*. Its jumbled song is hard to describe, and it was adept at keeping out of sight. Blake mentions that it may prove to be a race of the Botteri Sparrow.

Check-list and bibliography will be printed in the Dec. issue.—*Ed.*

—CBC—

SPRING FIELD TRIP, CASHIERS, N. C.

CBC members and guests gathered approximately 160 strong at High Hampton Inn, May 16-18 for their annual spring field trip. Registration began at 4:00 P.M. Friday. That evening Mrs. Robert A. Monroe, Knoxville, Tenn. (past President of Tenn. Ornith. Society) gave a lecture on the birds of Cashiers. This was followed by an illustrated talk on "Binoculars for Birding" by R. J. Reichert, Mount Vernon, N. Y.

Saturday was given over entirely to field trips around the Inn and lakes, Whiteside Mountain area, Cedar Creek Road, Glenville Lake and the back country road to Highlands. Blackburnians, Chestnut-sides and Golden-winged Warblers; Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Scarlet Tanagers and Ravens were among the 88 species tallied. Many members added several new species to their life lists.

Saturday evening's program included a clever skit by Miss Betty Davis and Master Sam Davis, Jr., Hayesville, N. C. Following this Mrs. Monroe gave an interesting talk, using slides, on "Bird Experiences".

High Hampton is one of the finest areas CBC has ever chosen for a field trip. Let's hold another meeting here.

Special thanks go to our Field Trip Chairman, Joe Norwood, Fred May and others who helped make this an outstanding field trip.—*Ed.*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR CAROLINA BIRD CLUB, 1958-59.

Mr. E. Burnham Chamberlain, Chairman. Box 3039 St. Andrews Branch, Charleston, S. C.

Mrs. Fred May, 211 Beall St., Lenoir, N. C.

Mrs. E. M. Brown, 140 East Main St., Washington, N. C.

Mr. Fred Sample, P. O. Box 1199, Columbia, S. C.

Mr. Linville Hendren, Box 148, Elkin, N. C.

Mr. Ellison Williams, 27 Limehouse St., Charleston 21, S. C.



In her regular report, Mrs. Charles of Aynor, S. C., gives us the following:

"The Baltimore Orioles remained until April 27, while one male stayed until May first. His song was heard quite often during the last two weeks! Chickadees nested in a box in the yard, leaving the nest on May 10. On May 8, I watched the nest from one p.m. to 7 p.m.—6 hours. Food was brought to the young 93 times. I don't know how many young birds there were. We read in some of the literature that small birds such as wrens and chickadees will carry food to their young in the nest more than a thousand times a day. I have watched Bluebirds and Carolina Wrens during full days of feeding nestlings and none of them have been half as industrious as that. You know, birds don't run by electricity!

"The Wood Thrush is a common summer bird in Aynor. Strange to say, I had not seen a single nest of this species during my seven years here, until my daughter found one on a limb of a Water Oak in her back yard this May second. The bird was apparently incubating eggs. On May 12, Essie Mae told me the thrush was singing on the nest. I told her the female did not sing, and the male did not sit on the eggs. So I took my glasses and went to see for myself. The bird was standing in the nest, singing. Later in the same day, I saw it standing on the rim of the nest while singing. We found it behaving this way quite often during the next few days. On May 14, some children playing in the yard, picked up a wood thrush that had been dead a day or two. We supposed this was the female of the pair, and that the male had been singing in his loneliness, or in an effort to bring her back to her eggs or young. The nest was out of reach so we could not see the contents. It was abandoned a day or two after the dead bird was found. Many people believe that birds sing because they are happy. I learned years ago that this is not always so.

"What causes a bird to do something that is entirely contrary to the normal habits of that species? This is a fascinating question, and one upon which we run every now and then in our backyard study of birds. I learned long ago not to say a bird "never" did a certain thing, for if you watch long enough and look often enough, the chances are that you will see your bird do the very thing you had said he wouldn't."

This issue, we have two reports of Cardinals nesting under the eaves of a building! Shall we say they got tired of the incessant rains that we have had all this spring and summer?

Mrs. James H. Sanders of Gaffney, S. C. wrote in as follows:

"A pair of Cardinals built a nest in the rose vine which is trained across the entrance to our carport. I didn't expect them to stay to raise young because of the traffic, but they did, and the babies hatched successfully. Then roofers came to redo the carport. The ladder went up over the nest, which is just below the eaves. The railing (trim) was taken down and tar

poured on two different days, and cover put on. The rail was replaced. Through all this the parents fed the babies, and yesterday (May 21) they left the nest. *Well*, this morning (May 22) I heard cheeping, and I knew the Cardinals had gone, so I got a ladder and looked. On the side of the nest was another opening, and in it were baby sparrows! I had seen sparrows going up there but just thought they were trying to annoy the cardinals. The sparrows left the nest Sunday or early Monday (May 25 or 26). I took the nest down. It is obviously two nests, but you can't tell where one ends and the other begins except by the different construction."



The Armour's Cardinal nest

General view at left

Close-up below



*Photos by
Annie Rivers Faver*

The other oddly placed Cardinal nest was at the Armour home across the highway from our house two miles from Eastover. Here the bird built a typical nest on the ledge formed by the bend in the rain-spout right under the eaves of the house, just outside their living room window. From the house, we could watch her building, and watch as she came to lay her eggs. I wanted to wait until she was incubating, and try to get a picture of the female on the nest. But when I went up next to check on her, disaster had struck, and the nest was on the ground! By using the tall ladder, I replaced the nest and took several snapshots of it from different angles, trying to show the location and the height from the ground. There are an abundance of bushes and shrubs and low trees in this yard, so there was no real necessity for the bird to build in such a place.

THE 1958 SPRING COUNT

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN

Nine areas reported this year. Charleston and Jefferson, N. C., were added and, regrettably, Eastover and Raleigh did not get out. Altogether, 116 observers were in the field in 47 parties. They tallied 22,387 plus (exclusive of Lenoir which did not stroke individuals). Compared with the count of 1957, 15% more parties this year counted 19% more birds. This is not necessarily a gain because of the switched locations.

In view of the severe weather this past winter, an examination of some land species that were more exposed is interesting. The figures below are for Greensboro, New London, Chapel Hill and Wilmington.

	1957/1958			
	Greensboro	New London	Chapel Hill	Wilmington
Date,	4-27/5-10	4-19/5-10	5-5/5-4	4-27/4-26
Parties,	11/11	6/4	12/13	9/6
Species,	128/115	101/111	111/110	142/163
Individuals,	5908/4220	3208/2692	2058/2806	5891/7564
Phoebe,	62/16	44/17	34/4	0/1
Bluebird,	140/66	93/79	86/29	32/31
Myrtle Warbler	340/14	31/1	28/42	42/69
Cedar Waxwing	123/57	185/54	50/120	138/49
Chimney Swift	240/92	23/80	83/94	205/103
Purple Martin	46/57	407/226	23/13	128/141

Some deductions may be drawn. Inland there were definite reductions. On the coast there were increases except in Chimney Swifts and Cedar Waxwings. Phoebees were scarcer than in any previous year recalled, and Bluebirds were off in numbers too. In the cases of Myrtle Warblers and Cedar Waxwings, the value of the figures at Greensboro and New London is weakened by the late count dates in 1958.

Chapel Hill, N. C. (essentially same area as last year; mixed deciduous woodlands, 25%; open fields and farmlands, 30%; pond, lakeshores, 25%; pinewoods, 5%; wooded residential areas, 15%). May 4; 5.15 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.; temp. 63-82°; wind SW 0-5 mph; clear, sunny. Twenty observers in 13 parties; total party-hours 74 (10 by car, 64 on foot). Total party-miles, 87½ (54 by car, 33½ on foot). Double-crested Cormorant, 1; Great Blue Heron, 1; Little Blue Heron, 1; Canada Goose, 1; Black Duck, 2; Ruddy Duck, 1; Turkey Vulture, 21; Black Vulture, 7; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 6; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Ruffed Grouse, 2; Bobwhite, 49; Turkey, 1; Killdeer, 15; Spotted Sandpiper, 15; Mourning Dove, 118; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 8; Black-billed Cuckoo, 1; Great Horned Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 3; Whip-poor-will, 6; Chimney Swift, 94; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 8; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 16; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 20; Red-headed Woodpecker, 5; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 9; Downy Woodpecker, 18; Eastern Kingbird, 76; Great Crested Flycatcher, 27; Eastern Phoebe, 4; Acadian Flycatcher, 16; Eastern Wood Pewee, 45; Rough-winged Swallow, 5; Barn Swallow, 3; Purple Martin, 13; Blue Jay, 78; Common Crow, 74; Carolina Chickadee, 56; Tufted Titmouse, 51; White-breasted Nuthatch, 26; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 5; House Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 49; Mockingbird, 88; Catbird, 48; Brown Thrasher, 25; Robin, 48; Wood Thrush, 96; Hermit Thrush, 2; Swainson's Thrush, 3; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 9; Veery, 2; Eastern Bluebird, 29; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 14; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 120; Loggerhead Shrike, 6; Starling, 44; White-eyed Vireo, 12; Yellow-throated Vireo, 16; Solitary Vireo, 3; Red-eyed Vireo, 66; Warbling Vireo, 5; Black-and-white Warbler, 5; Prothonotary Warbler, 9; Parula, 9; Yellow, 7; Cape May, 3; Black-throated Blue, 8; Myrtle, 42; Black-throated Green, 1; Yellow-throated, 12; Chestnut-sided, 1; Blackpoll, 1; Pine, 15; Prairie, 38; Ovenbird, 14; Louisiana Waterthrush, 5; Kentucky Warbler, 9; Yellowthroat, 35; Yellow-breasted Chat, 20; Hooded Warbler, 18; Redstart, 24; House Sparrow, 33; Bobolink, 12; Eastern Meadowlark, 82; Redwinged Blackbird, 24; Orchard Oriole, 9; Brown-headed Cowbird, 31; Scarlet Tanager, 25; Summer Tanager, 62; Cardinal, 186; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 4; Blue Grosbeak, 41; Indigo Bunting, 77; **Evening Grosbeak**, 14; American Goldfinch, 90; Rufous-sided Towhee, 32; Grasshopper Sparrow, 2; Henslow's Sparrow, 3; Chipping Sparrow, 98; Field Sparrow, 20; White-throated Sparrow, 74; Swamp Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 4. Totals, 110 species; 2806 individuals. Participants, Miss Mary Akers, Mrs. Dale Beers, Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Blake, Mrs. Charles Hopkins, Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Irvin, R. P. Kaighn, Miss Stella Lyon, Mr. & Mrs. Gerald MacCarthy, Mrs. W. D. Patterson, Lyman Pepperton, William Roe, Wiley B. Sanders (compiler), Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Sharpe, Mr. & Mrs. Matt Thompson, Mrs. Adelaide Walters, Miss Frances Yocum.

Charleston, S. C. (same area as Christmas count—Bull's Island, adjacent marshes, waterways and mainland northwest across Wando River). May 10; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 63° to 83°; wind S-SSE, 8-15 m.p.h. Fourteen observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 45¼ (23¼ on foot, 21 by car, 1 by boat); total party-miles, 149 (27 on foot, 114 by car, 8 by boat). Common Loon, 1; Brown Pelican, 18; Double-crested Cormorant, 2; Anhinga, 1; Great Blue Heron, 13; Green Heron, 7; Little Blue Heron, 14; Cattle Egret, 1; Common Egret, 38; Snowy Egret, 11; Louisiana Heron, 28; Black-crowned Night Heron, 2; Wood Ibis, 4; Glossy Ibis, 14; White Ibis, 235; Blue-winged Teal, 2; Turkey Vulture, 33; Black Vulture, 9; Mississippi Kite, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 8; Bald Eagle, 9; Osprey, 2; Pigeon Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 23; Turkey, 9; Clapper Rail, 18; Sora, 1; Common Gallinule, 3; Am. Coot, 1; Am. Oystercatcher, 10; Whimbrel, 48; Spotted Sandpiper, 20; Solitary Sandpiper, 10; Willet, 16; Greater Yellowlegs, 2; Least Sandpiper, 1; Dunlin, 32; Short-billed Dowitcher, 32; Semipalmate Sandpiper, 16; Western Sandpiper, 2; Sanderling, 6; Herring Gull, 24; Ring-billed Gull, 20; Laughing Gull, 19; Forster's Tern, 2; Least Tern, 4; Royal Tern, 52; Black Tern, 4; Black Skimmer, 11; Mourning Dove, 26; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 26; Common Nighthawk, 3; Chimney Swift, 33; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 6; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 6; Pileated Woodpecker, 20; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 26; Red-head Woodpecker, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Red-cockaded Woodpecker, 8; Eastern Kingbird, 21; Great Crested Flycatcher, 91; Acadian Flycatcher, 22; Wood Pewee, 41; Tree Swallow, 32; Rough-winged Swallow, 1; Barn Swallow, 6; Purple Martin, 55; Blue Jay, 31; Common Crow, 45; Fish Crow, 8; Carolina Chickadee, 16; Tufted Titmouse, 45; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 33; Carolina Wren, 44; Mockingbird, 14; Brown Thrasher, 5; Wood Thrush, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 8; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 7; Loggerhead Shrike, 7; Starling, 5; White-eyed Vireo, 30; Yellow-throated Vireo, 9; Red-eyed Vireo, 46; Prothonotary Warbler, 7; Parula Warbler, 52; Black-throated Green Warbler, 8; Yellow-throated Warbler, 40; Pine Warbler, 32; Prairie Warbler, 12; Kentucky Warbler, 1; Yellowthroat, 9; Yellow-breasted Chat, 31; Hooded Warbler, 24; Am. Redstart, 1; House Sparrow, 3; Bobolink, 109; Eastern Meadowlark, 17; Redwinged Blackbird, 44; Orchard Oriole, 19; Boat-tailed Grackle, 11; Common Grackle, 10; Summer Tanager, 46; Cardinal, 61; Blue Grosbeak, 3; Indigo Bunting, 10; Painted Bunting, 71; Am. Goldfinch, 3; Rufous-sided Towhee, 15; Chipping Sparrow, 7. Total, 118 species; individuals, 2341 plus.—Mr. & Mrs. Francis Barrington, T. A. Beckett, III, E. B. Chamberlain (Compiler), Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Coleman, R. H. Coleman, Jr., J. H. Dick, Edward S. Dingle, R. D. Edwards, L. S. Metcalf, John Quinby, Elizabeth Simons, Ellison A. Williams (Members, Charleston Natural History Society).

Charlotte. (7½ mile radius centering at 7th Street and Briar Creek; deciduous-pine woods and edge 50%, lakes and ponds 6%, open fields and farmland 40%, city lawns 4%).—May 3; 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Cloudy in a.m. with occasional very light showers, clearing around noon; temp. 63° to 82°; wind S to SW, 0-17 m.p.h. Nine observers in 3 parties. Total party hours, 25 (19 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles, 119 (9 on foot, 110 by car). Turkey Vulture, 2; Black Vulture, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Broad-winged Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 16; Killdeer, 14; Spotted Sandpiper, 1; Solitary Sandpiper, 4; Mourning Dove, 50; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 2; Screech Owl, 1; Chuck-will's-widow, 2; Whip-poor-will, 1; Chimney Swift, 43; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 4; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 7; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 6; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 8; Eastern Kingbird, 17; Great Crested Flycatcher, 14; Eastern Phoebe, 9; Acadian Flycatcher, 3; Wood Pewee, 11; Purple Martin, 1; Blue Jay, 86; Common Crow, 32; Carolina Chickadee, 12; Tufted Titmouse, 20; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 3; House Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 29; Mockingbird, 47; Catbird, 9; Brown Thrasher, 6; Robin, 42; Wood Thrush, 39; Swainson's Thrush, 4; Eastern Bluebird, 25; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 18; Cedar Waxwing, 12; Loggerhead Shrike, 10; Starling, 97; White-eyed Vireo, 7; Yellow-throated Vireo, 4; Red-eyed Vireo, 35; Black-and-white Warbler, 6; Parula Warbler, 3; Yellow Warbler, 1; Magnolia Warbler, 1; Cape May Warbler, 15; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 4; Myrtle Warbler, 15; Blackpoll Warbler, 1; Pine Warbler, 3; Prairie Warbler, 14; Ovenbird, 4; Louisiana Waterthrush, 1; Kentucky Warbler, 3; Yellowthroat, 6; Yellow-breasted Chat, 13; Hooded Warbler, 3; American Redstart, 6; House Sparrow, 58; Eastern Meadowlark, 70; Redwinged Blackbird, 29; Orchard Oriole, 22; Common Grackle, 27; Brown-headed Cowbird, 2; Scarlet Tanager, 2; Summer Tanager, 8; Cardinal, 61; Blue Grosbeak, 20; Indigo Bunting, 35; Pine Siskin, 2; American Goldfinch, 66; Rufous-sided Towhee, 34; Grasshopper Sparrow, 4; Chipping Sparrow, 29; Field Sparrow, 26; White-throated Sparrow, 16; Song Sparrow, 3. Totals: 83 species, about 1,377 individuals.—Joseph R. Norwood (compiler), B. R. Chamberlain, Dr. and Mrs. W. G. Cobey, Mrs. Ray Ford, Mrs. Joseph R. Norwood, Mrs. E. J. Presser, Mrs. W. B. Simons, Clyde Wilcher.

Greensboro (area same as in Christmas counts). May 10, (hours omitted); cloudy in a.m., clearing in p.m. Temp. 56-79°; twenty-one observers in 11 parties. Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Double-crested Cormorant, 1; Great Blue Heron, 1; Green Heron, 3; Blue-winged Teal, 2; Lesser Scaup, 53; Turkey Vulture, 8; Black Vulture, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Broad-winged Hawk, 1; Osprey, 1; Bobwhite, 12; Killdeer, 12; Common Snipe, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 32; Solitary Sandpiper, 13; Greater Yellowlegs, 3; Lesser Yellowlegs, 3; Solitary Sandpiper, 13; Greater Yellowlegs, 3; Lesser Yellowlegs, 3; Pectoral Sandpiper, 1; Ring-billed Gull, 54; Mourning Dove, 111; Black-billed Cuckoo, 1; Barred Owl, 1; Common Nighthawk, 8; Chimney Swift, 92; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 10; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 36; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 24; Red-headed Woodpecker, 10; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 20; Eastern Kingbird, 38; Great Crested Flycatcher, 39; Eastern Phoebe, 16; Acadian Flycatcher, 29; Alder Flycatcher, 1; Eastern Wood Pewee, 71; Horned Lark, 8; Rough-winged Swallow, 6; Purple Martin, 57; Blue Jay, 111; Common Crow, 79; Carolina Chickadee, 81; Tufted Titmouse, 99; White-breasted Nuthatch, 15; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 17; House Wren, 15; Carolina Wren, 100; Mockingbird, 154; Catbird, 47; Brown Thrasher, 47; Robin, 116; Wood Thrush, 111; Hermit Thrush, 4; Swainson's Thrush, 15; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 2; Veery, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 66; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 35; Cedar Waxwing, 57; Loggerhead Shrike, 4; Starling, 350; White-

eyed Vireo, 10; Yellow-throated Vireo, 48; Solitary Vireo, 3; Red-eyed Vireo, 84; Black-and-white Warbler, 12; Parula, 14; Yellow, 15; Magnolia, 4; Cape May, 6; Black-throated Blue, 12; Myrtle, 14; Black-throated Green, 1; Blackburnian, 1; Yellow-throated, 5; Chestnut-sided, 2; Blackpoll, 20; Pine, 42; Prairie, 20; Ovenbird, 38; Louisiana Waterthrush, 3; Kentucky Warbler, 3; Yellowthroat, 30; Yellow-breasted Chat, 29; Hooded Warbler, 13; Wilson's Warbler, 1; Canada Warbler, 1; American Redstart, 58; House Sparrow, 248; Bobolink, 1; Eastern Meadowlark, 86; Redwinged Blackbird, 176; Orchard Oriole, 6; Baltimore Oriole, 2; Rusty Blackbird, 2; Common Grackle, 32; Brown-headed Cowbird, 18; Scarlet Tanager, 7; Summer Tanager, 42; Cardinal, 190; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 2; Blue Grosbeak, 13; Indigo Bunting, 47; American Goldfinch, 53; Rufous-sided Towhee, 116; Grasshopper Sparrow, 3; Chipping Sparrow, 154; Field Sparrow, 63; White-throated Sparrow, 9; Swamp Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 23. Totals, 115 species; 4220 individuals. Participants, Mrs. W. C. Carr, Inez Coldwell, Mrs. F. H. Craft, Charlotte Dawley (compiler), Mrs. R. D. Douglas, Mrs. James Heilig, Sidney Holmes, Ethel McNairy, Ida Mitchell, Mr. & Mrs. George Perrett, Dr. & Mrs. C. I. Reed, Mrs. Paul Robinson, Etta Sch'ffman, Mrs. Edith Settan, Dr. & Mrs. A. D. Shaftesbury, Mrs. W. F. Smyre, Mrs. Charles M. Swart, Hal Strickland.

Henderson, N. C. (Ruin Creek and Kerr Lake areas). May 3; 6:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Overcast early, fairing at mid-morning. Temp. 64-82°; wind 15 mph. SSW at noon. Six observers in one party. Great Blue Heron, 1; Cattle Egret, 1; Turkey Vulture, 2; Black Vulture, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Osprey, 1; Bobwhite, 3; Spotted Sandpiper, 3; Greater Yellowlegs, 2; Mourning Dove, 12; Chimney Swift, 24; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Eastern Kingbird, 13; Great Crested Flycatcher, 4; Eastern Phoebe, 3; Acadian Flycatcher, 15; Eastern Wood Pewee, 7; Rough-winged Swallow, 2; Blue Jay, 11; Common Crow, 15; Carolina Chickadee, 12; Tufted Titmouse, 11; House Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 8; Mockingbird, 24; Catbird, 9; Brown Thrasher, 11; Robin, 5; Wood Thrush, 17; Eastern Bluebird, 7; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 14; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 15; Loggerhead Shrike, 1; Starling, 100 plus; White-eyed Vireo, 8; Yellow-throated Vireo, 4; Red-eyed Vireo, 20; Black-and-white Warbler, 6; Parula, 25; Yellow, 5; Black-throated Blue, 12; Myrtle, 40; Yellow-throated, 5; Chestnut-sided, 1; Blackpoll, 6; Pine, 1; Prairie Warbler, 26; Ovenbird, 12; Louisiana Waterthrush, 4; Kentucky Warbler, 19; Yellowthroat, 16; Yellow-breasted Chat, 5; Hooded Warbler, 12; American Redstart, 20; House Sparrow, 100 plus; Bobolink, 100 plus; Redwinged Blackbird, 15; Common Grackle, 8; Scarlet Tanager, 2; Summer Tanager, 8; Cardinal, 24; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 8 (6 males); Indigo Bunting, 11; **Evening Grosbeak**, 9 (4 males); American Goldfinch, 29; Rufous-sided Towhee, 8; Savannah Sparrow, 5; Chipping, 17; Field, 27; White-throated, 35; Swamp Sparrow, 1. Total species, 77, individuals, 1015 plus. On May 4, a Veery and two Swainson's Thrushes were seen in the area. Our warbler count was disappointing. Participants, Mrs. J. L. McLaurin and Mrs. E. M. Brown of Washington, N. C., Mrs. Louise Satterwhaite of Jacksonville, N. C., Mrs. Robert McCoy of Greensboro, N. C., Miss Mariel Gary, Mrs. A. W. Bachman (compiler).

Jefferson, N. C. (area centers around Hurt's farm in Nathan Creek community. Not all area covered but typical places in woods, fields and on south fork of New River). May 4; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; clear; temp. 60°. Two observers in one party. Turkey Vulture, 5; Mourning Dove, 3; Whip-poor-will, 2; Chimney Swift, 8; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Eastern Kingbird, 3; Eastern Wood Pewee, 10; Barn Swallow, 16; Blue Jay, 17; Common Crow, 6; Carolina Chickadee, 10; Tufted Titmouse, 17; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; House Wren, 6; Bewick's Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 8; Catbird, 16; Brown Thrasher, 4; Robin, 10; Eastern Bluebird, 4; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 7; Starling, 8; White-eyed Vireo, 3; Red-eyed Vireo, 2; Black-and-white Warbler, 5; Parula, 3; Yellow, 6; Magnolia, 3; Chestnut-sided, 10; Bay-breasted, 2; Ovenbird, 12; Yellow-breasted Chat, 2; Hooded Warbler, 2; Canada, 1; Redstart, 3; House Sparrow, 17; Eastern Meadowlark, 5; Redwinged Blackbird, 10; Orchard Oriole, 1; Baltimore Oriole, 2; Purple Grackle, 1; Scarlet Tanager, 1; Cardinal, 19; Indigo Bunting, 10; American Goldfinch, 11; Rufous-sided Towhee, 26; Chipping Sparrow, 25; Field Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 15. Totals, 54 species, 372 individuals. Seen 3 days before the count: Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Acadian Flycatcher; 2 days before the count, 2 Great Crested Flycatchers, 2 Wood Thrush and a Myrtle Warbler. Mrs. A. B. Hurt (compiler), John R. Jackson.

Lenoir, N. C. (area same as in past counts) May 3. Data incomplete. Thirteen observers in 4 parties. Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Bobwhite, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Ring-billed Gull, Morning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Screech Owl, Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Tree Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Parula, Yellow, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Myrtle, Yellow-throated, Chestnut-sided, Blackpoll, Pine, Prairie, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Redwinged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Grasshopper Sparrow, Chipping, Field, White-crowned, White-throated, Song Sparrow. Total species, 93. Individuals not tallied. Participants, Mrs. J. B. Bernard, Mr. & Mrs. R. T. Grier, Margaret Harper, Jack Harrington, Florence Hoyer, Iren Hoyer, Frank Hoyer,

J. T. Ingram, Fred May, Mary May (compiler), Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Parks, Mrs. C. C. Warren.

New London, N. C. (7½ miles radius, center 2 miles northwest of Badin, including High Rock Dam, Yadkin River, Badin Lake, Morrow Mountain State Park, Albemarle City Reservoir, Albemarle, Badin, Richfield, and New London; ponds and lakes 12%, mixed woods and edge 25%, open fields and farmland 55%, city lawns 8%)—May 10; 4:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; temp. 51° to 83°; wind SW, 5 M.P.H.; fair to partly cloudy. 19 observers in 4 parties; Total party-hours 37 (19 by car, 18 by foot); Total party-miles 203 (185 by car, 18 by foot). Pied-billed Grebe 1; Great Blue Heron, 1; Green Heron, 1; Little Blue Heron, 1; Turkey Vulture, 20; Black Vulture, 7; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 5; Broad-winged Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 3; Osprey, 1; Bobwhite, 25; Killdeer, 15; Wilson's Snipe, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 10; Solitary Sandpiper, 3; Herring Gull, 5; Ring-billed Gull, 5; Mourning Dove, 49; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 6; Barred Owl, 3; Screech Owl, 1; Whip-poor-will, 2; Common Nighthawk, 2; Chimney Swift, 80; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 2; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 10; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 7; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Eastern Kingbird, 33; Great Crested Flycatcher, 8; Eastern Phoebe, 17; Acadian Flycatcher, 4; Eastern Wood Pewee, 30; Tree Swallow, 2; Bank Swallow, 11; Rough-winged Swallow, 22; Barn Swallow, 7; Cliff Swallow, 2; Purple Martin, 226; Blue Jay, 54; Common Crow, 49; Carolina Chickadee, 16; Tufted Titmouse, 31; White-breasted Nuthatch, 12; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 3; House Wren, 4; Carolina Wren, 45; Mockingbird, 62; Catbird, 33; Brown Thrasher, 35; Robin, 42; Wood Thrush, 48; Bluebird, 79; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 33; Cedar Waxwing, 54; Loggerhead Shrike, 19; Starling, 154; White-eyed Vireo, 23; Yellow-throated Vireo, 9; Solitary Vireo, 2; Red-eyed Vireo, 101; Black-and-white Warbler, 4; Prothonotary, 2; Parula, 2; Yellow, 3; Magnolia, 1; Cape May, 1; Black-throated Blue, 3; Black-throated Green, 3; Myrtle, 1; Yellow-throated, 8; Chestnut-sided, 1; Black-poll, 8; Pine, 9; Prairie Warbler, 31; Ovenbird, 1; Louisiana Waterthrush, 2; Kentucky Warbler, 6; Yellowthroat, 23; Yellow-breasted Chat, 31; Hooded Warbler, 4; Canada Warbler, 1; American Redstart, 27; House Sparrow, 164; Bobolink, 91; Eastern Meadowlark, 126; Redwinged Blackbird, 139; Orchard Oriole, 10; Baltimore Oriole, 2; Purple Grackle, 7; Brown-headed Cowbird, 4; Scarlet Tanager, 1; Summer Tanager, 23; Cardinal, 72; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1; Blue Grosbeak, 49; Indigo Bunting, 64; Evening Grosbeak, 4; Goldfinch, 42; Rufous-sided Towhee, 6; Grasshopper Sparrow, 29; Chipping Sparrow, 65; Field Sparrow, 48; White-crowned Sparrow, 1; White-throated Sparrow, 33; Swamp Sparrow, 1. Total: 111 species; about 2692 individuals. Notes: Broad-winged Hawk seen and identified by Joe Norwood. The Evening Grosbeaks seen were remnants of a large flock that had wintered and fed continually at the home of Mrs. James Mauney in New London. The White-crowned Sparrow had been consistently at the feeder of Mrs. Barrett Crook for three months. Participants. Mr. & Mrs. Joe Norwood, Mike Wilder, Barbara Hatley, Jane Turner, Susan Green, Mrs. J. E. Pennington, Mrs. Barrett Crook, Miss Benny Winget, Mrs. L. A. Price, C. M. Haithecock, Irvin Poplin, Tommy Morris, Donald Maner, Mrs. James Mauney, Mrs. W. D. Bizuk, Mrs. R. L. Blalock, Mrs. E. S. Bivens, Miss Mary Gray Winget and Mrs. John U. Whitlock (Compiler).

Wilmington, (same area as in Christmas counts). Apr. 26, 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Clear; temp. 57-66°, wind 15 m.p.h. ENE. Twelve observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 73 (31 on foot, 42 by car); total party-miles 333 (38 on foot, 295 by car). Common Loon, 14; Red-throated Loon, 2; Brown Pelican, 1; Gannet, 2; Double-crested Cormorant, 11; Great Blue Heron, 9; Green Heron, 31; Little Blue Heron, 4; Common Egret, 16; Snowy Egret, 7; Louisiana Heron, 6; Black-crowned Night Heron, 5; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 1; Black Duck, 5; Blue-winged Teal, 5; Wood Duck, 8; Bufflehead, 2; Red-breasted Merganser, 5; Turkey Vulture, 9; Black Vulture, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 4; Broad-winged Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Osprey, 21; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 39; Clapper Rail, 21; Common Gallinule, 1; American Coot, 2; American Oystercatcher, 23; Piping Plover, 2; Semipalmated Plover, 45; Wilson's Plover, 7; Killdeer, 5; Black-bellied Plover, 82; Common Snipe, 2; Whimbrel, 6; Spotted Sandpiper, 5; Solitary Sandpiper, 1; Willet, 123; Greater Yellowlegs, 136; Lesser Yellowlegs, 6; Least Sandpiper, 18; Dunlin, 185; Short-billed Dowitcher, 114; Stilt Sandpiper, 1; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 15; Western Sandpiper, 1; Sanderling, 26; Herring Gull, 170; Ring-billed Gull, 291; Laughing Gull, 68; Bonaparte's Gull, 1; Gull-billed Tern, 9; Forster's Tern, 11; Common Tern, 2; Least Tern, 350; Royal Tern 33; Caspian Tern, 9; Black Skimmer, 157; Mourning Dove, 117; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 7; Black-billed Cuckoo, 1; Barred Owl, 4; Chuck-will's-widow, 15; Common Nighthawk, 13; Chimney Swift, 103; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 14; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 36; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 4; Red-headed Woodpecker, 39; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 32; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 26; Red-cockaded Woodpecker, 3; Eastern Kingbird, 39; Great Crested Flycatcher, 93; Eastern Phoebe, 1; Acadian Flycatcher, 14; Eastern Wood Pewee, 26; Tree Swallow, 213; Rough-winged Swallow, 2; Barn Swallow, 296; Cliff Swallow, 4; Purple Martin, 141; Blue Jay, 315; Common Crow, 118; Fish Crow, 60; Carolina Chickadee, 19; Tufted Titmouse, 123; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 29; House Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 103; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 6; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 187; Catbird, 31; Brown Thrasher, 86; Robin, 5; Wood Thrush, 79; Hermit Thrush, 1; Swainson's Thrush, 1; Veery, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 31; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 52; Cedar Waxwing, 49; Loggerhead Shrike, 5; Starling, 209; White-eyed Vireo, 56; Yellow-throated Vireo, 46; Red-eyed Vireo, 66; Warbling Vireo, 2; Black-and-white Warbler, 7; Prothonotary, 25; Swainson's, 1; Blue-winged, 1; Parula, 106; Yellow, 1; Black-throated Blue, 2; Myrtle, 69; Black-throated Green, 10; Yellow-throated, 64; Pine, 53; Prairie, 71; Palm, 1; Kentucky, 3; Yellowthroat, 20; Yellow-breasted Chat, 7; Hooded Warbler, 43; American Redstart, 1; House Sparrow, 284; Bobolink, 230; Eastern Meadowlark, 68; Redwinged Blackbird, 371; Orchard Oriole, 48; Baltimore Oriole, 12; Boat-tailed Grackle, 103; Common Grackle, 98;

(Concluded on page 71)

BOOKS

Georgia Birds. Thomas D. Burleigh. University of Oklahoma, Norman, Okla. pp. xxx + 746. 35 color plates, 13 photographs, tables, charts, maps. 1958. Price \$12.50. Unmanageably thick through the use of 10-point type throughout the text and this in spite of the fact that it is largely a reference work.

Robert Norris' stage-setting chapter is a must for anyone more than mildly interested in Georgia birds. This able treatise of 51 pages touches upon vegetation, climate and briefly upon geology, and interprets in some detail the distribution of Georgia's 160 breeding birds over the state's five principal physiographic regions. It spells out opportunities in investigation from the Highland to the Coastal flats and poses a number of challenging questions for the avowed purpose of stimulating interest in further field work as a means to their solution. Since that chapter is based upon the text, which was closed in 1953, it suffers to that extent.

A history chapter by William W. Griffith is good reading, apparently complete, and a distinct contribution. A "*List of Birds Originally Described From Georgia*", hidden away in the back of the book, might have received more of the deserved attention here.

The bulky text weighing near four pounds is built of about three parts Distribution and one part Habits and Recognition. The listing of arrivals and departures in the order of their progression up or down the state is helpful. The years in parentheses (1953), aimed at accuracy, are necessary but are a reading hazard. Incidentally, the explanation of their meaning (Preface, XI) appears to be twisted. The most recent distribution entry is *five years* old, a fact that must be most disappointing to the large group of Georgia ornithologists who have amassed, and in many cases published, a quantity of data since 1953.

In the matter of names, there is almost complete agreement with the Fifth Edition of the *AOU Check-List* (1957). The AOU switch from *Colymbus* to *Podiceps*, perhaps came too late to be included. Possibly the author prefers *Colymbus*. *Passerculus s. mediogriseus* (p. 646) does not appear in the Check-List. Its inclusion in *Georgia Birds* may well be justified. As for English names, departures are numerous but of no major importance. Some home rules will doubtless be established by local clubs. The omission of English names for races might have been advantageous in the index. Then, the Yellow Warbler could have been found quickly under Warbler, Yellow, rather than under Warbler, Newfoundland.

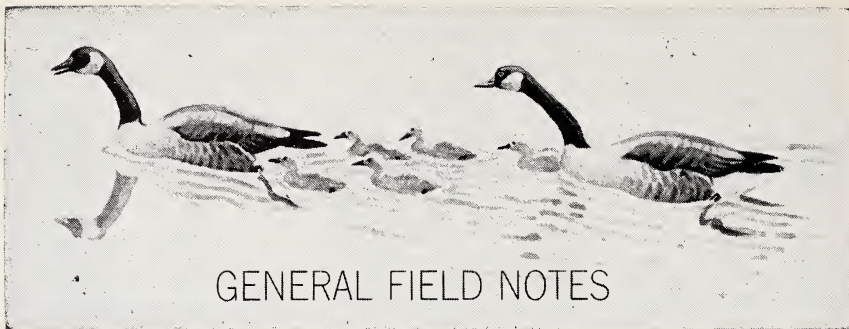
An imposing looking bibliography is a valuable addition—up to 1953. There are four 1954 entries and one 1955.

A Lincoln's Sparrow, listed as "*seen* at Atlanta, April 8, 1953" by Richard Parks, was actually *collected* and so recorded in *Audubon Field Notes*, Aug. 1953.

The color plates lack the appeal of some Sutton originals I have seen. They do not come alive for me. The habitat photographs are particularly fine and informative.

Regardless of the strikes against it, Thomas Burleigh's *Georgia Birds* is a substantial base for future building.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews, N. C., July 11, 1958.*

Learning about Soil and Water Conservation. Adrian C. Fox and George E. Rotter. Johnsen Publishing Co., Lincoln, Nebr. 64 pp., illust. A text-workbook for the upper grammar school grades.



GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. B. Chamberlain, Robert A. Norris, Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

In this issue the change to the names adopted in the Fifth Edition of AOU Check-List is made. In these notes and in the Spring Count, elsewhere in this number, you will meet *Whimbrels*, *Dunlins* and *Rufous-sided Towhees* that you did not report as such. Comfort should be found in the belief that we are through with changes for some years to come.

In the list of COMMON NAMES in the June issue, the Swallow Tailed Kite should, of course, have been listed, Swallow-tailed Kite.

A Brant on the S. C. Coast.—Accompanied by John Rood of Kalamazoo, Mich., and others, I observed a Brant (*Branta bernicla*) on Cape Island, Cape Romain Refuge, McClellanville, S. C., on April 12, 1958. It was a beautiful spring day, warm, and as I remember it came in the first really good weekend of the year.

When first seen the Brant was some 200 yards away on the edge of a cove at the back of the island. To our surprise it continued to walk toward us along the shore line, feeding as it came and before long we got perfect views of it as it pulled sea lettuce from the water and ate it. Finally it was within 50 feet of us and the white patch on the neck was plainly visible. Another of our party attempted to photograph the bird from a closer position but it flew away strongly and alighted far out in the bay.—James B. Shuler, Jr. *Greenville, S. C., June 2, 1958.*

Cattle Egret Officially on S. C. List.—The Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) was first identified in South Carolina in 1954 (*The Chat*, 18:102) and was seen in Charleston County in 1955 by Arthur Wilcox, Ellison Williams and many others at Boone Hall Plantation. It can now be listed officially as a breeding bird in this state.

On Apr. 26, 1958, a specimen and a nest and eggs were taken for the Charleston Museum, on Drum Island in Charleston harbor. This is the island on which abutments of the huge Cooper River bridge are placed. The collectors were Edwin Blitch, III, Roy E. Baker, Jr., and myself.

Cattle Egrets have been observed before, among the herons and ibises which inhabit the north end of Drum Island. This is the first instance in which they were observed on the nest. We estimated conservatively that 20 breeding pairs are now in residence on the island. We noted that the Cattle Egret nests appeared to be built more compactly than the Snowy's, and slightly smaller. The nest collected contained five eggs. They are more elongated and much whiter (less blue) than the Snowy eggs. An interesting

footnote to the observations at Drum Island is the fact that both Glossy and White Ibises now nest there in numbers. ERNEST CUTTS, *Charleston, S. C., May 21, 1958*. (E. Burnham Chamberlain, who prepared the specimen for the museum, supplied the following: adult male, gonads in high breeding condition; stomach well filled with remains of grasshoppers and a few beetles. Nest with five fresh eggs, two of these with soft faults (calcium deficiency?). Of nine nests examined by the collectors, one held five eggs; one four; the remainder three each.—*Dept. Ed.*).

A Cattle Egret Inland in N. C.—Today, Mariel Gary was driving her visiting brother over the backwater lake area created a few years ago just north of us here at Henderson (Vance County, N. C.) and as they entered the picnic area at Satterwhite's Point they came upon a Cattle Egret at the lake edge. Promptly terminating the tour, she hurried back to town and picked me up. We were back at the site in minutes—after leaving word for Gus (Mr. Bachman), who followed promptly. The egret was at the same spot and we watched it at length. It had a bad foot, or leg, but there was nothing wrong with its flying. It was close enough for us to identify without glasses. The buffy wash on the head, back and front was very bright. Its thick short bill was quite orange and the eyes yellow. It was smaller than the Little Blues I have seen and was exactly like the colored pictures I have.—JEANNETTE (MRS. A. W.) BACHMAN, *Henderson, N. C., Apr. 28, 1958*. (Henderson is just below the Va., line, approx., 180 miles west of the coast. The egret was present regularly, through the Henderson Spring Count of May 3. It left shortly after, possibly because of an unfavorable shore line raised by heavy rains. *Dept. Ed.*).

Peregrine Falcons Near Highlands, N. C.—On June 27, 1958, on Whiteside Mountain, near Highlands, Jackson County, N. C., Dr. Hoy Taylor of Shorter College, Rome, Ga., and I, saw two Duck Hawks (Peregrine Falcons).—ROY M. BROWN, *Boone, N. C. July 8, 1958* (These falcons are seldom recorded in our mountains during the summer months and Dr. Brown's contribution is appreciated.—*Dept. Ed.*).

Whimbrels: Feeding Behavior.—On the afternoon of May 24, 1958 I watched three Whimbrels (formerly Hudsonian Curlews) feeding along the front beach at Yaupon Village just west of Southport, N. C. The birds were working the beach vigorously on an ebbing tide and were alternately up to their heels and on bare sand as the shallow waves raced in and out.

I located myself some fifty yards from the birds and kept my 30X Balscope on one or another of them for several minutes at a time. They were catching "sand fleas" (*Hippa*) and were most successful at it. These little egg-shaped crabs keep themselves just under the sand and constantly race from one location to another as opportunities are offered by the shallow waves passing over. The Whimbrels, watching intently for these movements are wonderfully equipped to pick the fleas from the water. The usual catch seemed to be about one-half inch long and I saw several caught and promptly swallowed. Because of their very long bills the birds were not submerging more than half its length to reach their quarry. On one occasion, however, the entire bill of the Whimbrel I was following through the scope disappeared in the water and, while the bird was obviously struggling, an incoming wave covered its head completely. Its body was well above water and in a brief moment up came head and bill gripping a very large sand flea, apparently one half the size of the bird's head. The luckless crustacean was promptly crushed and swallowed whole.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews, N. C., June 1, 1958*.

Wilson's Phalarope at Wilmington.—On May 2, 1958, Mrs. Dot Earle saw a female Wilson's Phalarope swimming in a shallow salt marsh pond along the new causeway to Wrightsville Beach. It was too late to get anyone down that day to see it but on May 3, six of us met Dot at the site and observed the bird through a scope and through our binoculars. Then we moved up until finally we were within 30 feet of the bird which was busily swimming and feeding. Occasionally it whirled around and jabbed at an

insect. It was in full spring plumage, with the pale crown and beautiful reddish neck stripe. When we observed it from a distance, we thought a bird feeding with it, and which followed it everywhere, even in and out of the marsh grass, was a male but when we got closer it turned out to be a Stilt Sandpiper. Except that the sandpiper was walking and the Phalarope swimming, their movements were almost identical. Feeding in the shallower parts of the same pool were Lesser Yellowlegs, Dunlins, Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plovers.—EDNA L. APPLEBERRY, *Wilmington, N. C., May 30, 1958.* (Mrs. A. told us several years ago that in the course of time all birds would come to Wilmington!—*Dept. Ed.*)

Odd Colored Screech Owl.—At about 6:30 p.m., Oct. 24, '57, as I drove through the town of Summerville, Dorchester County, S. C., a small owl, apparently in pursuit of a nocturnal insect, flew across the road in front of my car and struck the right hand windshield corner. He was thrown up into the air, and glancing back I could see him flopping around in the entrance to a private drive off the road. Stopping the car and getting my flashlight, I went back to see what kind of an owl had been hit. It proved to be a Screech Owl; he was quite quiet by the time I reach him, although still breathing. I examined him for external injuries, such as broken wings or legs, and found none. Therefore, I placed him out of the way of traffic on the grass beside the driveway and departed for my hotel. Returning in an hour, I found the owl gone and guess he either recovered and flew away or was carried off by a predator, probably the former since no cats or dogs were seen in the neighborhood. The interesting thing about this owl was his color: he was neither the usual red nor gray phase but rather a soft brown. Arthur C. Bent in writing of the plumages of the screech owls in his *Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey* says that "an intermediate, brownish phase occurs rarely in the eastern races."—JOSEPH R. NORWOOD, *Charlotte, N. C.*

Nesting Martins Choose Traffic Lights.—The use of traffic lights as nesting sites by Purple Martins is not new, but the practice seems to be increasing with each subsequent year in the Charleston area at least. To my personal knowledge, Martins have built in the swinging traffic light at the intersection of Highway 17 and the turn-off to Sullivan's Island. Then a pair resided in a light in Mt. Pleasant for the past two seasons.

This year I find more Martins have discovered that the swinging traffic lights offer them comparative security. In fact I saw nine nest in the Charleston area, five of them at one intersection west of the Ashley River which boasts four swinging lights. The lights used by the Martins are the type that have protruding circular shields. The birds seem to show a preference for the red, or top light.

Have these sites been adopted because of the scarcity of available gourds and bird boxes?

I do know that within half a mile of the intersection where the five pair nested this year, Negroes formerly grew gourds in their yards and placed many of them on poles for the Martins' benefit. Recently I have noticed that these folks no longer grow the gourds and very few families have either gourds or boxes erected.

I wonder, also, if this departure from the usual nesting habits is really desired by the birds and would be manifested even though there were other facilities close by.

It would be interesting to know if this new nesting habit is widespread in other parts of the Carolinas.—ERNEST CUTTS, *Charleston, S. C., Oct. 24, 1957.*

Blue Jays in Migration.—No one seems to pay any attention to the migration of Blue Jays; but I have noticed small flocks going over in the spring for the past two or three years. On Apr. 25, 1958, a flock of 10 and than a flock of 36 went over early in the morning. On Apr. 26, a flock of 20 and a flock of 21 went over. On Apr. 29 there were flocks between 6:30 and 7:00 a.m., of 27, 13, 24, and 11. On May 2, at about 3:00 p.m., which was cloudy with intermittent showers, about 200 Blue Jays flew over the

highway, coming out of the trees just outside of Asheboro, Randolph Co., N. C. Two or three miles farther on a similar group of about 150 flew over the road and a little farther on an estimated 50 were in the tops of the trees. A couple of miles beyond these, another flock of about 50 went over. On May 3, from 6:15 'til 7:15 a.m., an estimated flock of 300 were passing over as I came out of the house, and then came the following loose flocks: 30, 23, 37, 26, 41, 13, 40, 6, 5, 77, 4, 30, 14, 27, 24, 3, 39, 16, 9, 4, 35, and 14.—JAMES MATTOCKS, *High Point, N. C., May 12, 1958.*

Skull Injuries at a TV Tower.—At Hillsboro, N. C., the evening of May 11, 1958 was overcast but it was evident from notes heard that some birds were flying. The next morning it was still foggy overhead and a visit to the WUNC-TV tower in northern Chatham County was indicated. There 10 fresh-killed birds were found in an area beginning about 20 feet from the base of the tower on the northeast side and 25 to 30 feet across. This suggests that the birds were hitting the tower itself and not the guy wires and were deflected in falling by a light wind from the southwest. Only four species were found: Gray-cheeked Thrush (1—probably *bicknelli*), Red-eyed Vireo (5), Blackpoll Warbler (2 females), Yellowthroat (2 males). A male Black-throated Blue Warbler and a Kentucky Warbler killed on an earlier occasion were noted.

Eight of the birds were looked over for injuries. On one Blackpoll nothing was found. The other seven showed at least hemorrhage into the skull bones. The Gray-cheek had a depressed fracture in the left temporal area and the other Blackpoll a similar fracture in the left occipital region. One Yellowthroat appeared to have struck across the skull just in front of the eyes. No wing injuries were detected. Even if they occurred the birds might glide off into trees or brush and not be found. The skull damage noted above suggests a considerable proportion of glancing blows.—CHARLES H. BLAKE, *Box 613, Hillsboro, N. C. May 20, 1958.*

Migration Data. Random Moonwatch Samples.—Those birders who have done fall nocturnal migration studies know that it is not only hard on the neck and eyes but oftentimes disappointing. However, such a study participated in by several Charlotte birders during the early part of October proved rewarding on at least one night. The moon was full and the weather clear on October 8 when Wilburn Brown, Mrs. Norwood and I took a "sample survey" (a random sample, I might add) of the 1957 nocturnal migration. From 7:35 P.M. to 8:35 P.M. with three pairs of eyes alternating we counted 128 birds flying across the field of the 30X Balscope. A shorter "take" from 10:00 P.M. to 10:15 P.M. that same night showed the birds still headed south but at the slower rate of 1 a minute; 15 were seen then. The following night migration took a nose dive; only 28 birds were counted from 8:05 P.M. to 10:15 P.M. by these same observers. It picked up a bit on October 10 when I saw 14 birds in the half-hour period from 9:30 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. As usual only the heron, egret and duck families were identifiable. No further studies were made since Mrs. Norwood and I left for the Poinsett State Park Fall Field Trip the following day.—JOSEPH R. NORWOOD, *Charlotte, N. C.*

Spring Count

(Concluded from page 66)

Brown-headed Cowbird, 15; Summer Tanager, 65; Cardinal, 195; Blue Grosbeak, 11; Indigo Bunting, 25; Painted Bunting, 37; Purple Finch, 1; American Goldfinch, 55; Rufous-sided Towhee, 108; Ipswich Sparrow, 1; Savannah Sparrow, 34; Grasshopper, 1; Sharp-tailed 11; Seaside, 3; Bachman's, 13; Chipping, 28; Field, 16; White-throated, 131; Swamp, 2; Song Sparrow, 2. Totals: 163 species, 7564 individuals. (Blue-winged Warbler seen by Polly Mebane & Marie Vander Schalie, the Warbling Vireos, by Polly Mebane, 1; Barnhill & Massey, 1). Participants, Edna Appleberry (compiler), Cecil Appleberry, Mary Baker, Maurice Barnhill (formerly Barney), Clifford Comeau, Dot Earle, John Irvine, Jr., Greg Massey, Polly Mebane, Capt. Adrian Pollock, Mary Ulrich, Marie Vander Schalie.



Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, chiefly in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	\$1.00	Contributing	\$25.00
Supporting	\$5.00	Affiliated Club	\$2.00
Life—\$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)			

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

Officers for 1958-59

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THE CHAT

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Birds

Volume 22

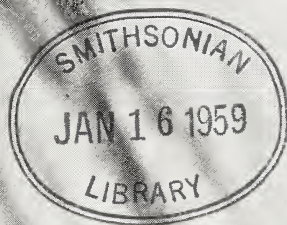
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DECEMBER, 1958

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THE CHAT

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Cover Photograph.—The rare and illusive Bachman's Warbler, caught singing by John Henry Dick's camera. See story by E. B. Chamberlain, Page 73.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

How nice it would be if your President could know each one of you personally. It would also make the selection of committee members a much easier job. Write me a letter expressing your ideas about CBC and let's get acquainted.

On September 27th, Bea Potter graciously entertained the Executive Committee at her home in Charlotte. In spite of the fact that "Helene" was raging along the Carolina coast that day, sixteen members appeared. After a delightful lunch served by our hostess, we settled down to an intensive three hour meeting. Each committee chairman presented inspiring and enthusiastic reports and plans. The Executive Committee voted to include in the December issue of *The Chat* an index for the current year (Volume 22), a membership list and the revised By-Laws. Having this information all under one cover will make for easy reference.

Kay Sisson's resignation as Editor of *The Chat* was accepted with regret. Kay has done such a splendid job that it seemed almost impossible to replace her. However, Dr. & Mrs. Charles H. Blake happened to choose this time to come to Hillsboro, N. C., to live and it was our great good fortune that Dr. Blake has accepted the editorship. Dr. Blake is a graduate of M.I.T. and was Assistant Professor of Zoology there for thirty years. He has held many important offices with numerous organizations. A *partial* list includes: Curator of Mollusks, Boston Society of Natural History; Editor, American Academy Arts and Sciences; Trustee, Boston Society of Natural History (Museum of Science); Chairman of Mass. Conservation Council; Associate in Ornithology, Agassiz Museum; Fulbright Fellow (Jamaica); President of the Northeastern Bird Banding Association and past president of the Nuttall Ornithological Club.

Dr. Blake is a member of the Bent Life History Committee; a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and American Association of Advancement of Science; is an Elective Member of A.O.U. (Chairman, Membership Committee); Eastern Bird Banding Association Council Member and is currently President of the Chapel Hill Bird Club. Dr. Blake has travelled in the United States, Europe, Australia, New Guinea and the West Indies. His chief interests in ornithology are bird banding and analysis of data obtained, and bird flight. A lesser interest is coloration, particularly in relation to pterylography.

We feel sorry for all who missed the Charleston trip. We keep telling you about the fun and fellowship and interesting things we do and see. These field trips should be red-letter days on your calendar. Our sincere thanks to the Charleston Natural History Society for a memorable weekend.

Let's get busy on these projects:

1. Help the Membership Committee double the CBC membership. Just one new member secured by each one of you would do it.
2. CBC would like to continue giving two Audubon Camp scholarships each year but it is straining our budget. Dr. Blake has suggested that perhaps twenty members would like to pledge ten dollars each for five years to help with this very worthwhile project. He has made the first pledge. The teachers and youth leaders who receive these scholarships come back home fired with enthusiasm and equipped with the newest methods for instilling a love for natural history in our young people.
3. Help the Education Committee by forming Junior Audubon Clubs in your schools. Write to Mr. R. M. Schiele, Box 966, Gastonia, N. C. for information and material.
4. Write your letter of suggestions for the future use of the Endowment Fund. (See September News Letter for information)

EDNA LANIER APPLEBERRY

BACHMAN'S WARBLER IN SOUTH CAROLINA

E. BURNHAM CHAMBERLAIN

The last record of Bachman's Warbler in this state noted in *South Carolina Bird Life* (1949), covered observations made in I'On Swamp, Charleston County in May 1949. In 1950 Newton H. Seebeck, Jr. found two males and one female on April 4, in the same region. One to three of the birds were noted frequently through May 7. One of these birds was shown to a large number of CBC members attending a meeting of the club at Charleston (*Chat* 14(3):34, 1950). In 1951 Seebeck saw one male on April 29 and again on May 2, and two on May 6. In 1952, on April 8, two males were reported by R. Gordon. (Two days later, Gordon, R. Smart, A. Flint, and B. Widmore saw one of these males) On April 18, H. & R. Axtell found two singing males (doubtless the same birds reported by Gordon ten days earlier).

Three years elapsed before the next known observation occurred. About mid-day on March 16, 1955, E. A. Williams found a singing male in Caw Caw Swamp, Charleston County, several miles from the Edisto River. Williams, along with H. R. Sass, Dr. H. C. Oberholser, and E. B. Chamberlain, studied this bird for some twenty minutes. The song was delivered from open perches 15-25 ft. high, and about 30-45 ft. from the observers. Song duration was usually 1½ seconds (occasionally 1 second), six to eight times per minute, with intervals of eight to ten seconds. Song consisted usually of five notes, on an even plane: "ee -ee -ee -ee -ee". On March 20, E. A. Williams and A. M. Wilcox saw the bird again, but briefly. A day or two later the understorey in the observation area was burned over, and the bird left it. On April 3, Wilcox and Chamberlain heard the bird singing while it moved about over an adjoining area some 200-300 yds. in extent. This observation was made about 8 A.M., with the temperature at 60° F. The song rate was four to the minute.

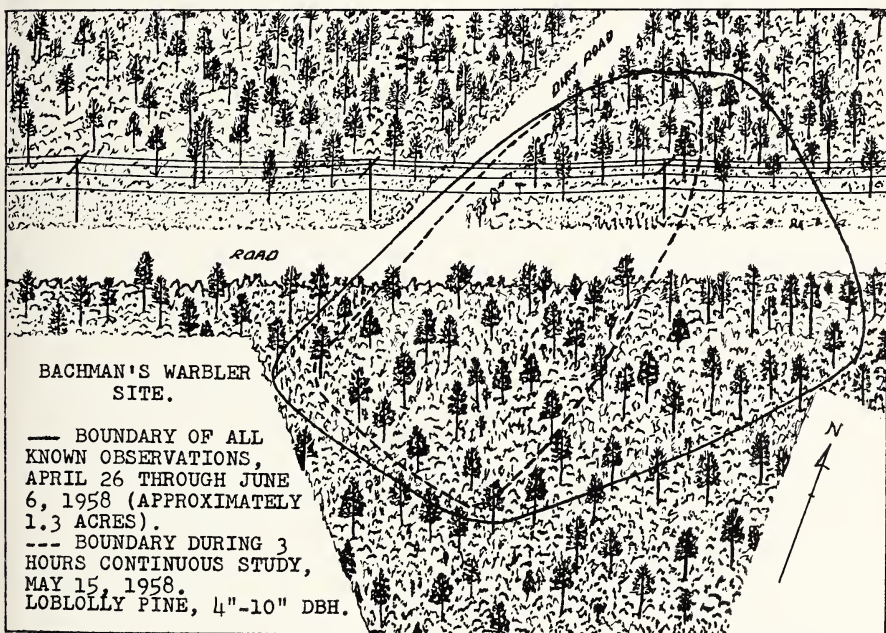
Again three years passed before another observation was reported. On April 26, 1958, Mr. & Mrs. F. H. Horlbeck located a singing male on the edge of a well-travelled dirt road, ½ mile from salt marsh, in St. Andrews Parish, Charleston County. The bird remained in the area until June 4, and was seen by a number of observers. It sang almost constantly, and appeared quite fearless. Nor did the noise of a brush-shredder, operating for two days along the road edge, seem to disturb it. For the first time, I believe, pictures were taken of this species. These were stills by J. H. Dick (and possibly others), and movies by H. P. Staats.

The area frequented has a rather sparse stand of loblolly pine, unevenly distributed, and the majority some 30-60 ft. apart. In size they range from 4-10 inches DBH. The understorey is quite dense and consists largely of small oaks (3 species), myrtle, and sassafras. It averages about seven feet in height. Previously this area consisted of open loblolly pine, with little or no underbrush. It was cut and burned three or four years ago.

On May 15, E. A. Cutts and E. B. Chamberlain undertook an intensive three hour study of this bird, beginning at 5:15 A.M. As the observers' car was stopped, "we heard the bird singing on the south side of the road. The song averages three seconds in length, with eight or nine second intervals. For so small a bird the song is vigorous and uttered with an intensity that

causes the bird's entire body to vibrate and its tail to quiver. One is reminded of the song of the Parula, without the final note, but there is an insect-like quality too. Perhaps it is two thirds Parula and one third cicada." By late May the song had become shorter and less frequent. It seemed listless and entirely lacking its early season vigor.

The accompanying figure embodies most of the information gathered during this study. Among other species noted in the area were Chat, Crested Flycatcher, Towhee, and Bluebird. There is no appreciable difference in vegetation between areas. To the north of the road the pines are somewhat larger and nearer together, the understory some denser.



Average perch height about 20 ft. While under observation the bird made at least 40 moves (2 to c. 150 ft.) with an average flight of c. 50 ft. Bird spent about 1 hr., 36 min. perched, with perching time varying from 30 seconds to 15 min., an average of 2.41 min. Bird flew down into understory at least 15 times for periods varying from 30 seconds to 2 min., with average stay-down of 1.1 min.

Check of these recorded observations reveals about 28 minutes unaccounted for. The forty-odd moves take up a small portion of this time. Inadequate note-taking for the final twenty minutes of the observation period accounts for the balance.

The following notes resulting from the three hour study are of particular interest:

Feeding. The observers got the impression the bird frequently sighted food

(Concluded on Page 77)

BY-LAWS OF THE CAROLINA BIRD CLUB, INC.

First Revision—Adopted, October 11, 1958.

ARTICLE I—MEMBERS

Section 1. Any person who is interested in the objects set out in the charter may become a member of this club upon the written recommendation of a member in good standing and the payment of the required dues.

Section 2. Members shall be:

Regular Members. Those paying One Dollar (\$1.00) per year; PROVIDED THAT, all members of an immediate family may become regular members upon the payment of Three Dollars (\$3.00) for the family.

Sustaining Members. Those paying Five Dollars (\$5.00) per year.

Contributing Members. Those paying Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) per year.

Life Members. Those contributing One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), or paying four consecutive yearly installments of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) each.

Honorary Members. Those whom the Executive Committee shall see fit to designate.

Section 3. Dues for each ensuing calendar year shall be payable on the preceding September 1st. Reminders to members who have not paid shall be mailed by the treasurer by November 1st. Members who have not paid dues by February 1st shall be suspended after an additional reminder from the treasurer and receive no further issues of *The Chat* until the payment of their dues.

ARTICLE II—OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the Club shall be a president, three vice-presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer. These officers, together with the Editor of *The Chat*, The Editor of the *News Letter*, and four (4) members-at-large elected from the general membership of the Club, shall constitute the Executive Committee, which Executive Committee shall be charged with the management and operation of the business of the Club.

Section 2. Nominations for officers shall be made by the Nominating Committee to the annual spring meeting; nominations may also be made from the floor at the meeting.

Section 3. Officers, except vice-presidents, shall be elected each to serve for a term of one year or until their successors are elected; and all officers shall be installed as the final item of business at the annual spring meeting. One vice-president shall be elected each year to serve for a term of three years.

Section 4. All officers and the members-at-large of the Executive Committee shall be elected by a majority of the qualified votes cast at the regular annual spring meeting of the membership.

Section 5. Vacancies in any office shall be filled by the Executive Committee pending the next regular election.

ARTICLE III—MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of the membership shall be held each spring and each fall at a time and place designated by the Executive Committee upon a minimum of twenty days written notice given to all of the members.

Section 1-A. A minimum of thirty (30) members qualified to vote and present at any regular or duly called meeting of the membership shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting the business of the club.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall meet within sixty days after the election of officers to plan work for the coming year. The Executive Committee and Committee chairmen shall also hold a joint meeting preceding the annual fall membership meeting.

ARTICLE IV—AFFILIATED CLUBS

Section 1. Any bird club or natural history clubs in North Carolina or South Carolina which desires to affiliate with this organization may do so by sending a fee of two dollars (\$2.00), together with a list of its officers, to the treasurer.

Section 2. Any garden club or other club not specifically devoted to birds or natural history may become affiliated with this organization upon such conditions as the Executive Committee may require.

Section 3. Any such affiliated bird club or natural history club may send a voting representative to the regular fall meeting of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE V—THE CHAT

Section 1. The magazine of this club shall be known as *The Chat*.

Section 2. The editor of *The Chat* shall be appointed by the Executive Committee to serve until his successor is named.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall have the control and supervision of the publication of *The Chat*.

Section 4. All members in good standing shall receive the regular issues of *The Chat*; provided that, where there is a family membership only one copy shall be sent to the family.

Section 5. Each affiliated club shall receive one copy of the regular issues of *The Chat*.

ARTICLE VI—COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Nominating Committee shall consist of six members and shall be appointed by the president within ninety days following his election and be so notified by letter. This committee shall represent the geographical area and membership of the club. The names and addresses of said committee shall be published in the following issue of *The Chat*.

Section 2. The president with the advice of the Executive Committee shall appoint the following committees: Auditing Committee, Education Committee, Endowment Committee, Field Trip Committee, Finance Committee, Membership Committee, Public Relations Committee, Sanctuary Committee and such other committees as the Executive Committee shall from time to time direct. An announcement of the appointment of said committees shall be published in the *News Letter* as soon as possible following the election of officers.

Section 3. The Finance Committee shall prepare an annual budget and submit it to the Executive Committee for approval. The Finance Committee shall also have charge of any special financing not otherwise provided for.

Section 3-A. The Endowment Committee shall develop and execute plans toward promoting and increasing the Endowment Fund. The Endowment Committee shall consist of seven (7) members. It may be headed by a single chairman or jointly by an Endowment Promotion Chairman and an Endowment Investment Chairman. The chairman or chairmen to be appointed for a three (3) year term of office, subject to re-appointment. Two of the members to be appointed for a two (2) year term and the remaining members to be appointed for a one (1) year term.

Section 4. The Education Committee shall plan and execute the educational projects of the club as approved by the Executive Committee.

Section 5. The Field Trip Committee shall arrange such field trips as have been approved by the Executive Committee.

Section 6. The Sanctuary Committee shall develop and execute a program for the betterment of our bird population and the extension of bird sanctuaries as approved by the Executive Committee.

Section 7. The Public Relations Committee shall announce and report the activities of the club.

Section 8. The Membership Committee shall develop and execute plans for the increase of membership in this club, as approved by the Executive Committee.

Section 9. The president shall appoint an Auditing Committee of three members who shall audit the books of the club within thirty days after the close of the fiscal year.

ARTICLE VII—DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The president shall preside at all meetings of this club and the Executive Committee, and shall perform such duties as regularly pertain to the office; he shall be, ex-officio, a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

Section 2. In the absence of the president, the vice-president longest in office shall preside; in his absence, the vice-president next longest in office shall preside; and the same shall apply to the third vice-president.

Section 3. The secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of this club and the Executive Committee, keeping one copy in the minute book and providing the president a copy of said minutes within two weeks following each meeting; shall maintain a list of all members; shall provide all members adequate notice of each meeting and field trip; and shall turn over the club records to his successor within ten days of his successor's election.

Section 4. The treasurer shall have charge of all monies of this club excepting the Endowment Fund; shall collect all dues; shall deposit all funds in a bank approved by the Executive Committee; shall pay all bills not recognized in the budget upon written authorization by the president or the Executive Committee; shall keep a permanent record of all receipts and all disbursements; shall give a written report thereof to the annual spring meeting; and at such other times as the president shall require. The treasurer shall turn over to his successor within ten days after his election all books, records, and funds belonging to this club which are in his hands. The records of the treasurer shall, upon change of office, be audited in such a manner as the Executive Committee shall direct. At the expense of the club the treasurer shall provide such bond for faithful performance as the Executive Committee shall require. The treasurer shall be, ex-officio, a member of the Finance Committee.

ARTICLE VIII—AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended by a majority of the votes cast at any regular meeting of the membership, or at a special meeting called for that purpose, provided that, the proposed amendment has been submitted to the Executive Committee and copies thereof sent to all members at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting at which it is to be voted upon.

ARTICLE IX—PROCEDURE

Section 1. The business meetings of this club shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition.

(Concluded from Page 74)

before diving into the understory, so brief were many of its forays. (T. A. Beckett, III saw this bird catching a small green caterpillar).

Bathing. Twice we noted evidence of bathing. On one occasion at 7:08 a.m., the bird had dropped down into the understory. It "sang once while down, was quiet for 30 seconds, then up again at 7:10, shaking vigorously, preening, shaking, singing meantime, then shaking and preening again. (The dew is heavy this morning and obviously the warbler has had a good bath)".

Song. When facing away from the observers the song volume appears to decrease and the song to come from another point. Were the singer not seen he would be hard to locate. When facing the observer, the singer is rather easily found. ("Squeaking" caused a temporary pause in the song and the bird looked all around, but did not move).

Other behavior. At 7:51 a.m. "A scolding Chat appeared, alighting within fifteen feet of the warbler. Latter ceased singing and appeared to watch Chat, which flew off in half a minute. At 8:01 a Chat lit within five feet of its perch. The warbler left immediately. . . ."

(Note: The occurrences recorded here, between 1949 and 1958, are in the files of The Charleston Museum. They have been withheld from earlier publication deliberately in an effort to protect this rare warbler. A re-check of the area described, disclosed the presence of a good proportion of long-leaf pines as well as loblolly.)—*Charleston, S. C.*



BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAVER, Department Editor

I'm sure all who attended the Spring Field Trip at Cashier's remember with enthusiasm the demonstration on "The Place of Wildlife on the Farm" given by Betty and Sam Davis, Jr. This brother and sister team, 11 and 13 years old respectively, engage in many nature activities, particularly birding, on their farm in Clay County, high in western North Carolina. Their home must be a virtual sanctuary for all kinds of wildlife. They have formed an Audubon Junior Club, having had eight children at their first meeting in August, 1958. Both are members of CBC by vote of the membership at Cashiers. Recently I had the pleasure of reading their "Wildlife Diary" and recognized "Backyard Birding" at its best. Imagine seeing Pileated Woodpeckers in your backyard, getting up before daybreak on a sub-freezing mountain morning to heat an iron skillet so the birds could warm their toes while eating, and . . . but read for yourself these excerpts from "Wildlife Diary":

"August 9, 1957: Today I saw a Chipping Sparrow land on our dog Friday's back and sit there for a few seconds. I figured that this would be a good day to start my nature observation diary.

"August 12: Our family made bird houses today. We made two for Wrens, one for Chickadees, and one for Titmice. We used gourds. . . . Our family enjoys doing things together. We will store these houses and be ready to put them up next January.

"August 13: I saw Yellow-billed Cuckoos eating the big black worms that are feeding on the leaves of our oak trees. One Yellow-billed Cuckoo sat in a maple tree for about five minutes as if he were listening to Mother as she read from *Song Birds in Your Garden* (John K. Terres).

"August 15: We plan to move a fallen tree, which we found on a walk in the woods near our home, to try to attract a Flicker to build.

"August 20: We spent a wonderful day in the woods today. We were investigating a Cardinal's nest when out jumped a flying squirrel. It had taken over the nest and had filled it with grasses. It had made a grass roof over it and inside were two baby squirrels. They were pink in color, about two inches long and without hair. . . . Other things that we saw today were deer tracks . . . dozens of Goldfinches on weeds and grass stems by the edge of a corn field. . . . There was a spring surrounded by low growth with twelve bird nests located in a small surrounding area.

"September 7: We spent the greater part of the day preparing our science exhibit for the county fair. Our exhibit is entitled "Song Birds in Your Garden."

"September 14: Was overjoyed to learn that our wildlife exhibit . . . placed first in the Science Division . . . at the seven-county fair. So we deposited our \$45 premium in our savings account, to be used toward getting a good pair of binoculars for bird study.



*The Davis's Audubon Junior 4-H Club.
Assistant Farm Agent, George C. Bowers—sitting.
District Field Biologist, Rex Bird—standing.
Sam, Jr. and Betty Davis—standing to the right.*

"September 21: Today I enjoyed an afternoon in the woods. . . . Trying to follow Frisky and Bushy Tail to their nest, but all they did was peel hickory nuts.

"September 30: We spent the greater part of our free time watching the squirrels playing. Squirrel season opens at 6 o'clock tomorrow morning, and we wonder if they can live and enjoy all the nuts they have stored for the winter. We made 'No Hunting' signs and placed all around our property.

"October 2: So far no harm has come to our squirrels. Maybe the crows have warned them.

"October 29: Frisky was hanging from the tree by the living room window looking in when we got up this morning. We had failed to crack nuts for them for two days now, and he was here to remind us.

"November 5: Juncos arrived from their breeding ground today—early this year. They came on Thanksgiving Day last year—omen of a hard winter.

"November 12: Today I saw a male Cedar Waxwing feeding a female Waxwing on berries.

"December 22: Today was the day our neighborhood children came and helped us trim our tree outside for the birds.

"December 25: Our family had a wonderful Christmas. Birds enjoyed their tree, and all three squirrels came for nuts and corn.

"December 28: Our first Golden-crowned Kinglets came today, and to the birds' Christmas tree—first the female. . . . When the male came around with his little orange crown, we identified them right away.

"January 1, 1958: The New Year, and my resolutions to Wildlife Conservation are: 1) Keep bird feeders filled. 2) Interest at least two more families and get them to enjoy, protect and feed wildlife, especially the birds.

"February 2: Snow! We were up before daylight and cleaned the snow from our feeders. We heated one of Mother's iron skillet, placed food in it, and set it in the post feeder. It wasn't five minutes before the birds started coming for breakfast. They seemed to enjoy warming their feet while they ate.

"February 20: We got reports from people all over the county on the number of dead birds they found following our big snow.

"February 25: . . . seeing the Bewick's wren carrying sticks to its gourd-house by the porch.

"March 3: Somehow a cake of soap got in the bowl with Charley, the turtle. Charley has been blowing bubbles all evening.

"March 8: We were in a 4-H parade today. I carried a bird nest with a place card, 'Feed the Birds. They Destroy Harmful Insects.' Sam, Jr., carried bird seed with a place card, 'Protect the Birds. They Protect Us.' [Note: These 'place cards' seem to be in reverse, but that is how they had it.]

"March 24: Today a Pileated Woodpecker was on a stump about one hundred yards below our house. He then flew to a clothesline post nearer the house to examine it.

"April 14: Our Pileated Woodpecker was here again. We were so happy to welcome the male Summer Tanager today. Wonder where his wife could be. . . . Maybe he has come early to choose a nesting site.

(Concluded on Page 104)

BIRDING IN THE YUCATAN—PART III

JAMES B. SHULER, JR.

BIRDS OBSERVED ON THE YUCATAN PENINSULA, MAY 25-JUNE 5, 1957.

This list represents the birds which we had identified to our own satisfaction. It is entirely based on field observation. No specimens were taken, though a number of the birds were photographed. There are many birds which we saw but were unable to identify with certainty, for example, the hummingbirds. This accounts, in part, for the omission of some common species which appear on other lists.

C—Chichen Itza	P—Progreso	X—X-can
M—Merida	U—Uxmal	
Magnificent Man-o'-war Bird, <i>Fregata magnificens</i> .	P	
Black Vulture, <i>Coragyps atratus</i> .	C, M, P, U, X	
Turkey Vulture, <i>Cathartes aura</i> .	C, M	
Gray Hawk, <i>Buteo nitidus</i> .	C, X	
Crested Eagle Hawk, <i>Spizaetus ornatus</i> .	X	
Pied Forest Hawk, <i>Micrastur semitorquatus</i> .	C	
Common Chachalaca, <i>Ortalis vetula</i> .	C	
Black-throated Quail, <i>Colinus nigrogularis</i> .	C, M	
American Coot, <i>Fulica americana</i> .	P	
Caspian Tern, <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i> .	P	
White-winged Dove, <i>Zenaida asiatica</i> .	U	
Talpacoti Dove, <i>Columbigallina talpacoti</i> .	C, M, P, X	
Aztec Parrakeet, <i>Aratinga aztec</i> .	C	
Yellow-lored Parrot, <i>Amazona xantholora</i> .	C	
Squirrel Cuckoo, <i>Piaya cayana</i> .	X	
Groove-billed Ani, <i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i> .	C, M	
Lesser Road-runner, <i>Geococcyx velox</i> .	U	
Streaked Pygmy Owl, <i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i> .	C	
Trilling or Texas Nighthawk, <i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i> .	M	
Vaux Swift, <i>Chaetura vauxi</i> .	M, X	
Yucatan Hummingbird, <i>Amazilia yucatanensis</i> .	X	
Collared Araçari Toucan, <i>Pteroglossus torquatus</i> .	X	
Turquoise-browed Motmot, <i>Eumomota superciliosa</i> .	C, M, X	
Red-capped Green Woodpecker, <i>Piculus rubiginosus</i> .	X	
Tropical Pileated Woodpecker, <i>Dryocopus lineatus</i> .	C, X	
Yucatan Woodpecker, <i>Centurus pygmaeus</i> .	C, M, X	
Ladder-backed Woodpecker, <i>Dendrocopos scalaris</i> .	X	
Guatemalan Ivory-billed Woodpecker, <i>Phloeocoastes guatemalensis</i> .	X	
Tawny-winged Woodhewer, <i>Dendrocincla anabatina</i> .	X	
Ruddy Woodhewer, <i>Dendrocincla homochroa</i> .	X	
Rose-throated Becard, <i>Platypsaris aglaiae</i> .	C	
Masked Tityra, <i>Tityra semifasciata</i> .	X	
Black-capped Tityra, <i>Erator inquisitor</i> .	C, X	
Vermilion Flycatcher, <i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i> .	P	
Tropical Kingbird, <i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i> .	M, X	
Streaked Flycatcher, <i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i> .	X	
Boat-billed Flycatcher, <i>Megarhynchus pitangua</i> .	X	
Vermilion-crowned Flycatcher, <i>Myiozetetes similis</i> .	M, C	
Kiskadee Flycatcher, <i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i> .	M	
Tropical Pewee, <i>Contopus cinereus</i> .	X	
Sulphury Flat-billed Flycatcher, <i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i> .	C	
Gray-breasted Martin, <i>Progne chalybea</i> .	X	
Cave Swallow, <i>Petrochelidon fulva</i> .	C, M	
Rough-winged Swallow, <i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i> .	C, M, P	
Mangrove Swallow, <i>Iridoprocne albilinea</i> .	P	
Yucatan Jay, <i>Cissilophya yucatanica</i> .	C, M	
Green Jay, <i>Cyanocorax yncas</i> .	C, X	

White-tipped Brown Jay, <i>Psilorhinus mexicanus</i> .	C, X
Spotted-breasted Wren, <i>Thryothorus maculipectus</i> .	C
Southern House Wren, <i>Troglodytes musculus</i> .	C, M, X
Black Catbird, <i>Melanoptila glabrirostris</i> .	C, X
Southern Mockingbird, <i>Mimus gilvus</i> .	C, M, P
Clay-colored Robin, <i>Turdus grayi</i> .	C, M, X
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, <i>Poliophtila caerulea</i> .	C, M
Yellow-green Vireo, <i>Vireo flavoviridis</i> .	X
Blue Honeycreeper, <i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i> .	X
Mangrove (Yellow) Warbler, <i>Dendroica petechia</i> .	M, P
Ground Chat, <i>Chamaethlypis poliocephala</i> .	C
Prevost Cacique, <i>Amblycercus holosericeus</i> .	C
Red-eyed Cowbird, <i>Tangavius aeneus</i> .	C, M, P, X
Boat-tailed Grackle, <i>Cassidia mexicanus</i> .	C, M, P
Sumichrast Blackbird, <i>Dives dives</i> .	C, M, P
Yellow-tailed Oriole, <i>Icterus mesomelas</i> .	M
Lichtenstein Oriole, <i>Icterus gularis</i> .	C, M
Hooded Oriole, <i>Icterus cucullatus</i> .	X
Red-winged Blackbird, <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> .	P
Eastern Meadowlark, <i>Sturnella magna</i> .	P
Lesson Euphonia, <i>Tanagra affinis</i> .	C
Thick-billed Euphonia, <i>Tanagra laeta</i> .	X
Blue-gray Tanager, <i>Thraupis virens</i> .	M
Lesser Goldfinch, <i>Spinus psaltria</i> .	M
Black-headed Saltator, <i>Saltator atriceps</i> .	X
Gray Saltator, <i>Saltator coerulescens</i> .	C, M
Cardinal, <i>Richmondia cardinalis</i> .	C, M
Yellow-faced Grassquit, <i>Tiaris olivacea</i> .	C, M, X
Olive Sparrow, <i>Arremonops rufivirgata</i> .	C
Green-backed Sparrow, <i>Arremonops conirostris</i> .	M
Peten Sparrow, <i>Aimophila petenica</i> .	P

The *Distributional Check-List of the Birds of Mexico*, Parts I and II, is followed throughout this article as to common and scientific names. There is a great need to standardize the common names of the Mexican birds, and while the names used in the Check-List may not in some cases be the ones most widely in use, it is important to settle on one authority. This Check-List (see bibliography) contains information to be found nowhere else and has been invaluable in checking the ranges and names of the birds observed.

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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DATES

The 1958 dates for the Christmas count are **Saturday, December 20, 1958—Thursday, January 1, 1959, inclusive**. Follow carefully the rules in the December, 1955 CHAT, Page 83. Send reports as soon as possible to B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C. (January 15 is the deadline for reports going to the Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Ave., New York 28, N. Y.)



GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. B. Chamberlain, Robert A. Norris, Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

Banded Waterfowl Taken Near Wilmington, N. C.—During the spring of 1958 I received a number of bands recovered from waterfowl of several species taken in the Wilmington area by Marion Jeffords of that city. The information obtained from these bands follows:

Species	Sex	Place banded	Date banded	Date taken
Mallard	female	Howland's Island, Cayuga, New York	Sept. 1, 1955	Dec. 13, 1957
Mallard	male	Bear Is. Mgmt. Area Bennet's Point, S. C.	Jan. 10, 1957	Dec. 21, 1957
Mallard	female	near Kindersley, Saskatchewan, Can.	Aug. 9, 1954	Jan. 14, 1958
Mallard	male	Orton Refuge, Brunswick Co., N. C.	Feb. 9, 1957	Dec. 14, 1957
Black Duck	male	Halliday Lake, Ontario, Can.	Sept. 4, 1957	Jan. 4, 1958
Blue-winged Teal	female	Squaw Creek Wildlife Refuge, Mound City, Missouri	Apr. 25, 1956	Jan. 14, 1958
Green-winged Teal	male	Seneca Falls, N. Y.	Oct. 6, 1957	Dec. 12, 1957

It is of interest to note that the longest period between initial banding and recapture was 3 years and 5 months (Mallard) while the shortest period was only 2 months (Green-winged Teal).—JOHN B. FUNDERBURG, *Dept. of Zoology, State College, Raleigh, N. C., July 18, 1958.*

Killdeer Nest on Roof.—We are indebted to Dr. Herbert Hechenbleikner of Charlotte College faculty for reporting the location of a nest of a Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) on the gravel roof of the Central High School building near the center of Charlotte, N. C. Four eggs were found in a slight depression in a small mound of gravel built up by the bird—or birds. They hatched July 2, 1958. Upon visiting the site, July 4, the young were found dead, presumably from starvation.

The large, white pebbled roof of Central High is flat with a coping some two feet high completely surrounding it. This coping probably prevented the escape of the young which might have jumped off with some chance of survival. The roof is approximately forty feet above the ground which is largely paved excepting the back area where there is an athletic field.

Bent's *Life Histories of North American Shore Birds* (1929) cites a case of roof nesting of the Killdeer at Lincoln, Nebraska in 1925. There, the nest was placed "on the gently sloping tarred and gravel roof of a race-track grandstand, some 50 feet above the ground.—The young were found on the ground near the building while still but feeble walkers." It seems

likely that they jumped. As far as I know, this group is not recorded to carry its young. In the present case, the young were unable to reach the top of the coping, or parapet.

Nighthawks were also nesting on the roof of Central High School this summer as in past summers.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews*, N. C., August 2, 1958.

Long-tailed Jaeger at Pawleys Island—Late Sunday afternoon, July 13, 1958, I went out on the beach in front of our house about midway of Pawleys Island with my field glasses (7 x 56 Dienstglas) to watch the usual flight of birds south at this time of the evening. (I presume they go to the uninhabited islands and thinly populated areas of the coast south of Pawleys to roost.) It was still perfect daylight. After watching 20 or so minutes, into the range of my glasses from the northerly direction came a bird I immediately knew to be different. It was very dark, mostly black, slim-winged and slim-bodied, and alternately flapped its narrow wings (very pointed at the elbows) and "coasted". It flew in this manner until it was entirely out of sight, by the way.

As it came closer I knew it was a Jaeger. I could easily see the white on the throat and neck and the black cap and hooked bill, and when it was directly in front of me—about 150 ft.—the wedge-shaped tail with the *long* (8 to 10 in.) streamers from the center readily authenticated it as the Long-tailed species. It flew most gracefully, unhurried, the long tail feathers waving and undulating with the movement of its flight. I followed it down the beach about 50 ft. keeping it in my glasses until I came to a piling where I stood and watched it until it turned and went toward the end of North Island which you can spot from our house.

I am well aware that a Long-tailed Jaeger has not been reported since Wayne's time in South Carolina. [He last saw it in 1908 off Dewees Island, (*S. C. Birdlife*)] unless there is a record since 1949 that I do not know about. There was not a shred of doubt in my mind what this was but since it is a sight record it goes on the Hypothetical List.—KAY SISSON

Chuck-will's-widow Nesting in Salt Marsh—The Chuck-will's-widow nests almost exclusively in thickly wooded areas where it lays its eggs on the leaves of the forest floor. Its coloration is especially suited to such a location and the sitting bird is almost impossible to see. Therefore it was of considerable interest to the authors to find these birds nesting on a sparsely vegetated dredge "lump" in the coastal salt marsh.

On May 8, 1957, the authors made a survey of the nesting birds of Battery Island near Southport, N. C. (*Chat* 21(4):87-88, 1957). A search of the bare sand and sparse grass area which is the breeding ground for Black Skimmers, Willets, terns and plovers disclosed a nest with two eggs and three adults of the Chuck-will's-widow. The non-nesting bird, an adult male, was collected. The eggs were placed on the bare ground between the bases of two clumps of *Spartina patens*. There was no semblance of a nest.

On June 9, 1958, the authors again visited Battery Island and made a special search for nesting Chuck-will's-widows. Two nests with two young each were found. The young were much larger than those of a Florida Nighthawk nesting nearby but the nest sites were identical. All were placed between the bases of clumps of *S. patens*. These birds are reported to return to the same spot year after year to nest and it is of interest to note that one nest was within a few feet of the spot where the 1957 nest was located.

Sprunt (*U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* 176:149) has noted that under typical conditions the light eggs of this species can be seen at a considerable distance when the bird is off the nest since they contrast markedly with the dark leaves, "—not having the similarity to the ground that characterizes the eggs of the Nighthawk." However, when the eggs are laid on bare sand as they are on Battery Island they are as well concealed by their coloration as are those of the Nighthawk.—JOHN B. FUNDERBURG and CHARLES DePOE, *Dept. of Zoology, N. C. State College, Raleigh, N. C., July 18, 1958.*

Barn Swallows Extend Coastal Breeding Grounds—While birding on Folly Beach, just south of Charleston, on May 31, 1958, I saw a pair of

Barn Swallows perched on a roadside telephone wire. As I watched the pair through my binoculars, the female flew across the road, crossed a yard and disappeared under a beach cottage that was built about ten feet above the ground. I followed, instinctively, and found the nest placed on a large beam that ran lengthwise under the house. It was constructed of the usual material—mud, straw, grasses and lined with finer grasses and a quantity of white chicken feathers, and contained two eggs.

I returned to the site on June 4 and found that the nest held five eggs and that the nest itself had been added to considerably. The birds were excited on both occasions when the nest was investigated.

The Barn Swallow was first found nesting on the South Carolina coast, June 24, 1946, when E. Milby Burton discovered four young out of the nest in an old boathouse at Cape Romain lighthouse, opposite McClellanville (*South Carolina Bird Life*, 1949). It has been nesting in the boathouse at the wildlife refuge headquarters at McClellanville for several years and this summer there were more than a dozen pair using this site. The Folly Beach site is approximately 40 air-line miles below McClellanville.

Although *S. C. Bird Life* mentions that the species once nested on Wassaw Island, near Savannah, Ga., this Folly Beach nest is the southernmost known on the South Carolina coast.—EDWIN L. BLITCH, III, *Charleston, S. C., September 5, 1958*. [Inland, the southward extension is less marked. A small colony was located near Albemarle, Stanly Co., N. C., this past summer (*Chat*, 22(1):28, 1958) and a nest was found in north Georgia near the Tennessee line (*Oriole*, XXII:27—*Dept. Ed.*].

A Common Raven on the N. C. Coast.—On July 1, 1958, I studied a Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) near Creswell, 10 miles west of Columbia, in Washington County. It was perched with two Common Crows in a small dead tree on the bank of a ditch separating two fields thus affording an excellent size comparison. The heavier bill and throat ruff of the Raven were easily compared as well as the difference in flight when the birds flew.

Ravens have been previously reported from two coastal localities. H. H. Brimley saw a number near Beaufort, June 4 and 8, 1892 and Lester L. Walsh reported four seen on Knotts Island near the Virginia state line on Nov. 14, 1931.—JOHN B. FUNDERBURG, *Dept. of Zoology, N. C. State College, Raleigh, N. C., July 18, 1958*.

Brown-headed Cowbird Breeding Notes.—Although evidence exists that the Brown-headed Cowbird is not an uncommon breeder in upper Piedmont North Carolina (*Chat*, 18(2):39, 1954), apparently not too much evidence has been uncovered in this county on the South Carolina border. Therefore, the following observation of a Brown-headed Cowbird breeding in Mecklenburg county was of interest to me. On July 12, 1958, at Camp Stewart, 10 miles east of Charlotte, Mrs. Norwood and I observed a juvenile Cowbird walking around on the ground in typical fashion, occasionally picking up an insect of some kind. The habitat was atypical since it was a fairly open stand of second-growth hardwood. Mrs. Norwood had earlier told me of seeing this bird on July 11 being fed by a Red-eyed Vireo. We watched the Cowbird for some time hoping to see the Vireo appear. Finally I did spot a Red-eyed Vireo in a dogwood tree close to the Cowbird. Apparently the Cowbird saw the Vireo at the same time for it immediately began making a metallic clicking noise and fluttering its wings, its beak open. It then flew to a nearby tree, in which the Vireo was now perched. The Vireo placed an insect in the Cowbird's mouth which the clumsy youngster promptly dropped; the foster parent immediately dropped to the ground, retrieved the insect and ate it itself. When the Vireo flew to another tree, its oversized "child" followed in hot pursuit. After a few second's search the Vireo nabbed another insect which it was this time successful in poking down the Cowbird's throat. Both birds then flew off to a point across the small lake at the camp. The only adults I have observed in midsummer in this section were also in that part of Mecklenburg county when a flock of 22, apparently all males, was seen on July 7, 1956 (*Chat*, 20(4):83, 1956).—JOSEPH R. NORWOOD, *Charlotte, N. C., August 5, 1958*.



EDITORIAL

News, Reviews, Announcements

Authors, Members, Letters

Items of Interest

After working five years on *The Chat* your editors are naturally going to miss sorely this very interesting and pleasurable byway of a favorite hobby.

However, we turn the editorship over with keen appreciation of Dr. Charles Blake's talents and loves in the field of ornithology and we both reaffirm our oft' said words—he'll make the best editor yet!

We all like bouquets and compliments. From Aaron Bagg, long an active member of the Massachusetts Audubon Society and now one of its Honorary Vice-Presidents, contributor to many journals of ornithology, this quote from a letter to CBC member, James Mattocks, High Point, N. C.: "*The Chat* never fails to provide interesting reading on intriguing subjects. I was very pleased to read, in the September *Chat*, your very interesting note on Blue Jay migration. . . ."

And from Devin A. Garrity, President of The Devin-Adair Co., publishers of *The Warblers of America*, says in a letter to writer Jay Shuler: "I enjoyed your two articles on the birds of the Yucatan more than I can say. So many accounts of birds make dry reading and lack the spark which you struck. . . ."

From Mr. & Mr. Charles Nichols, Anderson, S. C., new members this year: "Thank you for suggesting that we join CBC. We love *The Chat* and had a wonderful time at Cashiers."

In this issue *The Chat* carries an index of Volume 22, covering the current year. We think this is a much needed addition for the use of all editors, writers and contributors, and our readers, and will in time make for more facile reference than "riffing" through back issues.

The cover of the September, 1958 *Chat* set Mrs. G. E. Charles, Aynor, S. C., to thinking. She recalls that she and her family saw Martins nesting in traffic lights the early part of the summer of 1956 at Myrtle Beach, S. C., at the intersection of highways 501 and 17. "Several birds were flitting around the lights and we could see the nests inside. I remember very clearly having seen one Martin as she sat upon her nest against the glare of the light in the background. . . . none of us recall how many nests we saw but there were several. . . ."

Mrs. Pinckney King, 1719 Home Ave., Hartsville, S. C., writes that the Western Tanager came back to her feeding station on November 5th. (*Chat* 22(1):11, 1958) It stayed last spring until April 25th. Mrs. King will be delighted for any CBCers to come to Hartsville to observe her rare visitor.

MEMBERSHIP LIST, CAROLINA BIRD CLUB, SEPTEMBER, 1958

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(Concluded from Page 79)

"April 26: Today we gave our wildlife demonstration at the district contest. We placed second. Mr. Bill Hamnett invited us to give our demonstration to the Carolina Bird Club . . . the weekend of May 16-18.

"May 17: Saw a female pheasant on our way to Cashiers for the Carolina Bird Club meeting. . . . Our new bird for the day was a Raven. . . . We gave our demonstration, 'The Place of Wildlife on the Farm.' We were made honorary members of the bird club.

"June 9: Baby wrens left nest today (Bewick's). Catbird's eggs hatching.

"June 19: We banded our first 1958 Mourning Doves today.

"June 28: Today I saw four babies in the bluebird house. They are so tiny we can hardly hear them calling for food. We have plenty of baby English Sparrows."

(These notes are just as they were sent to us with the exception of a few corrections in spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. There were almost daily entries in their "Wildlife Diary," so you can see these are just a good sample.)—JOSEPH R. NORWOOD, *August, 1958.*

In the May, 1958 issue of the *Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society*, Chapel Hill, N. C., Dr. Thomas L. Quay has a six page article on "The Foods and Feeding Habits of the Savannah Sparrow in Winter".

Two hundred of these sparrows were collected in the vicinity of Raleigh during the winters of 1946-47 and 1947-48. From the analysis of the stomach contents the following conclusions were made:

1. Total foods were 97% seeds and 3% insects and spiders.
2. Digitaria Seeds constituted 70% of all the food.
3. Of secondary importance were Ambrosia, Sorghum and Elensine.
4. Feeding continued through the day but was greater earlier in the morning and late in the afternoon.
5. The crop was filled but once a day, at sunset.

—HARRY T. DAVIS, *Raleigh, N. C.*

CBC Fall Field Trip—1958

The Charleston Natural History Society was host to 128 members and friends of CBC at Charleston, S. C., October 10-12. Perfect weather and the combined efforts of Mrs. Robert Coleman and other members of C.N.H.S. and Field Trip Chairman, Joe Norwood, made this another one of CBC's finest meetings. It was most gratifying to greet old friends again, meet new ones—Ivan Tomkins, Dr. Fred Denton, Wendell P. Smith, whose names were well known to me—see for the first time the remarkable color slides of the Bachman's Warbler taken by John Henry Dick, enjoy a boat trip Saturday morning to Ft. Sumter and up the Inland Waterway, spend the afternoon hunting for Cattle Egrets and any other species possible (93 was the final count); attend a dinner that evening and then be treated to a showing at the new Museum Planetarium by Miss Elizabeth Simons, plus a talk on the fire ant control program given by Harold Peters (he and Fay came all the way from Atlanta). All this for those lucky members who attended, whereas there are hundreds more who just don't know what they're missing.—K.C.S.

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Species or person's names in the following are not indexed: Christmas Counts, pp. 12-23; list of common names (fifth edition of AOU Check-List), pp. 38-40; Spring Counts, pp. 63-66, 71.

Notes signed "Ed." or "Dept. Ed." are not generally indexed under author.

Contributors and localities under Briefs not indexed.

Scientific names indexed only when and as given.

Dates are not indexed.

Other members of observing parties are not indexed.

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The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, chiefly in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

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Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

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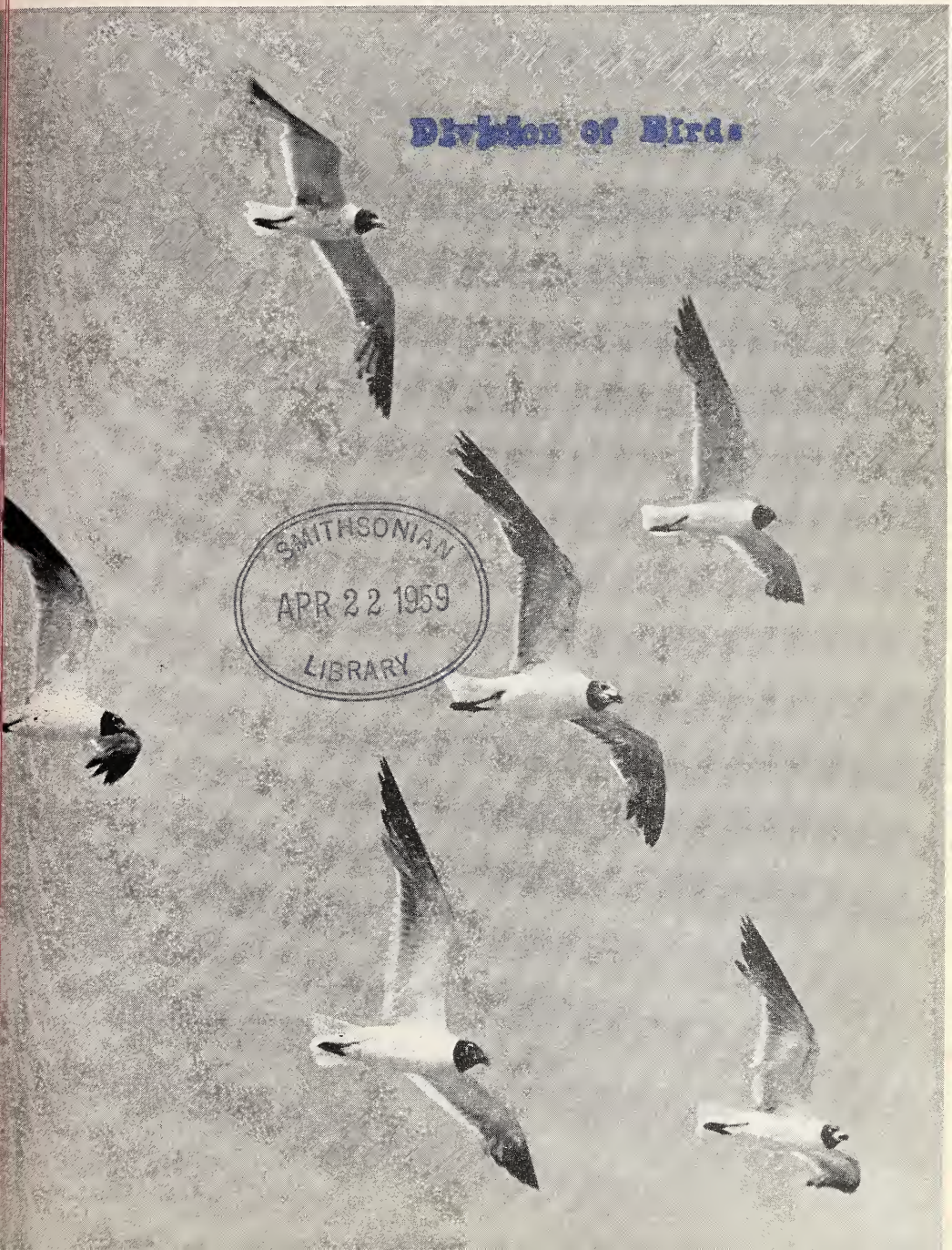
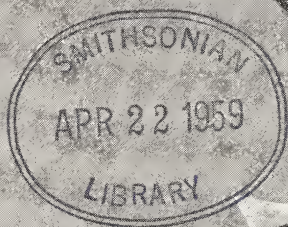


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Cover Photograph—Laughing Gulls, Oregon Inlet, N. C., photo by Jack Dermid.

The Chat

FURTHER OBSERVATIONS OF BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCHES

JOSEPH AND REBEKAH NORWOOD

Brown-headed Nuthatches (*Sitta pusilla*) again proved to be of interest in their nesting efforts in Charlotte this year. Observations this season show that this nuthatch prefers a natural nesting site to a man-made structure, no matter how hazardous the location. Lacking a natural site, they will accept almost any box, regardless of its apparent unsuitability as to location and construction, as long as it approaches their natural preference as to dimensions.

Toward the end of February 1957, a pair of these nuthatches were noted excavating a hole in a pine stump in a neighbor's yard. Nesting boxes, some of them used by the nuthatches in previous years and available within short distances, were ignored. The stump, quite decayed but with the bark still clinging, was 2'8" high and 7" in diameter. It was located in the middle of an open lawn with no nearby cover and within 30 feet of a back stoop which was the favorite resting spot of a large cat. Thus the stage was set for tragedy. With the entrance hole facing south, excavation was carried on directly beneath the bark and continued at a fairly steady pace until the first evidence of incubation was noticed the latter part of March.

Around the first week in April a thoughtless youngster pulled the bark off the front of the nest completely exposing the five eggs it contained. Our neighbors took a couple of strips from an orange crate (about 1"x7" each and tacked over the opening leaving space at the top for the entrance hole. To our surprise the nuthatches returned and continued incubation. The female could easily be seen through the slats which had a slight gap in the middle. She was a close sitter and did not fly even when one was right at the nest. On April 12 the eggs hatched, and 5 young were noted. The inevitable tragedy occurred that night when a predator destroyed the nest and young. Next morning we found both slats knocked askew and only slight remnants of the nesting material. The cavity was found to be 8¼" deep with an inside diameter of 2"x2" and the 1" entrance hole was 7" from the bottom. Examination of the remaining material showed it to be of the usual composition (*Chat* 20 (4):73-74, 1956) with the exception of pine twigs which were absent. Apparently these twigs are only used as a space filler when a cavity larger than the natural one is utilized (*Ibid.*).

The parent nuthatches escaped harm and were busily looking for another nesting site that same day. Since no more natural ones were available, they looked over several boxes in our back yard including one they used in 1956. However, they finally rejected these in favor of a box in a neighbor's yard. This was the same yard where the first instance of box utilization by Brown-headed Nuthatches was noted by us (*Chat* 20(1):19-20, 1956); the same conditions as to constant activity of children and dogs still prevailed. This box, constructed of ½" plywood, was nailed to the wall of a garage about 7'8" from the ground and faced south. The box itself was 8½" high with inside dimensions of 2½"x2¾"; the 1" entrance hole was 5¾" from the floor. A large finishing nail projected

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from the box 1" below the entrance hole. Since the plywood, not being weather resistant, was badly curled, the box did not furnish much protection against the elements. The nuthatches began their construction of the nest on April 15. Here unfortunately, observations are incomplete, but the parents were seen carrying food to the box. It was evident that the brood had successfully fledged when at least three young were seen on the suet stick in our yard early in June. Inspection of the nest showed no unhatched eggs, and the composition was again of the usual material, exceptions being the absence of twigs as foundation and extensive use of fine root hairs. Of interest was the fact that the dimensions of this box closely approximated those of the cavity the nuthatches excavated earlier in the season.

It appears that in spite of the apparent unsuitability of the box in regard to location and structure, it was chosen since it most closely met the dimension standards for nuthatch nesting activities. Other available boxes were all of a larger size, and it will be recalled that the box used in our yard last year contained a foundation of 2" pine twigs before the actual nest began.

No further nesting activity of *Sitta pusilla* was observed in 1957 and no nests were built in 1958.

CHRISTMAS COUNT—1958

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN

The 1958 Christmas Count records 169 species and 725,500 individuals. Last winter's figures were 183 and 303,600. On the surface, this looks like a bumper crop. Actually, the new high contains a half-million roost population at Greensboro and without it, Greensboro's count was fewer than 9,000 and the over-all, 219,300, or little better than two-thirds of last year's returns. Most of the locations experienced poor birding weather, and participation was slightly down, so the figures may mean little or nothing. There was a marked change in some species over the previous year. In 1957, the count of **Eastern Phoebe**s was 175. In this count only 47 were found, and 14 of these were in the Great Smoky Mountains. **Eastern Bluebirds** dropped from 1450 in 1957 to 961. Over one-third of these were in Greensboro.

Counts were received for the first time from Rockingham, N. C., Holden Beach, Long Beach and Hamstead. The last three are not included in this summary because of space limitations on the chart and their proximity to Wilmington. The Hamstead count, centered just north of but not overlapping Wilmington (John Irvine, Jr., compiler) is particularly good. It contained a **Black and White Warbler** seen by Greg Massey.

Charleston, S. C. (standard area centering on U. S. Hwy. 17, 14.5 miles N. of Mt. Pleasant. Includes most of Bulls Island, adjacent waters and marshes, opposite mainland, back beyond Wando River, as in preceding years). Dec. 29, 7 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Overcast; temp. 46° to 55°; wind W-NW, 5—15 m.p.h.; ground damp, water in ditches and ponds. Twenty observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 48 (31 on foot, 15.5 in car, 1.5 in boat); total party-miles, 209 (56 on foot, 149 by car, 4 by boat). For want of a **House Sparrow** Charleston failed to tie Wilmington in the number of full species observed. Also, noticeably absent: Palm Warblers. The individual count was over double that of last year—in spite of poor weather. The number of parties was only up 20 per cent. The gains were generally distributed but marked in the water birds. Surprise find: 8 **White Ibis** on Bulls Island by four observers; a Wood Thrush by seasoned observer, Ernest Cutts (one

was found on the 1952 count). Cape Romain Refuge personnel rendered invaluable aid.—R. E. Baker, Mr. & Mrs. Francis Barrington, E. L. Blicht, E. Burnham Chamberlain (compiler), Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Coleman, E. A. Cutts, J. H. Dick, E. S. Dingle, R. D. Edwards, R. L. Edwards, J. M. Horlbeck, Peter Manigault, I. S. H. Metcalf, Ann W. Richardson, Thomas Uzzell, Mr. & Mrs. A. M. Wilcox, E. A. Williams (members and guests, Charleston Natural History Society).

Charlotte, N. C. (standard area centering at intersection of 7th. St., and Briar Creek, same as in past 16 years. Cover and food content of open water areas greatly reduced by continuing development). Dec. 27; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Ground bare, water open; temp. 29° to 45°; wind NE, 12 m.p.h.; cloudy a.m., clearing at noon, light rain in afternoon. Twelve observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 34 (16 on foot, 18 in car); total party-miles, 203 (17 on foot, 186 by car). There was little of interest in this count. A large flock (117) Ring-billed Gulls at a city dump was unusual. They had moved into the area several weeks before.—Mrs. M. J. Barber, Mrs. B. R. Chamberlain, B. R. Chamberlain (compiler), Mrs. E. O. Clarkson, Mrs. William G. Cobey, Mrs. Ray Ford, P. J. Hamiton, Louisa Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Fred May, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Norwood, Mr. and Mrs. Shuford Peeler, Mrs. George C. Potter, Mrs. E. J. Presser, William M. Smith. (Some of the above were part-time participants and were not officially counted).

Eastover, S. C. (same area as in preceding years). Dec. 31—broken coverage; cloudy to foggy; temp. 46° to 60°; wind NE at 6 m.p.h. Two observers in one party. A poor day and a rather recent spraying of a part of the area are blamed for the low count in species and individuals.—Mrs. William M. Faver (compiler), Mrs. Clyde Sisson.

Elkin, N. C. (Elkin-Ronda area, same as in the past several years). Dec. 26; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fair, cold, ponds frozen; temp. 10° to 36°; Wind, SW, very light. Nine observers in 3 parties—walked 5 miles, drove 45 miles. The 48 species count was a bit down. Possibly the frozen areas contributed to the absence of Killdeer, One hundred and seventy-five of these were on last year's list.—Tom Bryan, Harold Click, Charles Earp, Jeff Earp, Linville Hendren (compiler), Tom Hendren, Earl Hodel, Lewis Petree, Wendell P. Smith.

Columbia, S. C. (standard area centering approximately at the State House, same as in previous years). Dec. 27; 6:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cloudy to steady light rain; temp. 34° to 47°; wind NE, 5 m.p.h. Eleven observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 32 (25 on foot, 7 in car); total party-miles, 135 (30 on foot, 135 by car). Here, as at Greensboro, the individual count is distorted by 59,000 blackbirds. Without them, the count is a bit down, as is the species count. The 59,000 includes 8,024 Brown-headed Cowbirds, a decided contrast to the 29 of last year and **none** of the year before that.—Gilbert Bristow (compiler), Gordon Brown, Mrs. S. E. Hartin, Jimmy Hartin, Mrs. P. B. Hendrix, Mary Nell Koon, David Monteith, Jr., Edmund Robinson, Fred Sample, Charles Simons, Mrs. Clyde Sisson (Other, part time, observers: Mrs. Gilbert Bristow, Mrs. J. B. Frazier, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Noel, Woodrow Senn, Jr., Wayne Davis, Roger Davis, Lewis Houck, Harold Roof, Jr., Mrs. W. G. Senn.)

Great Smoky Mountain National Park (standard area centering 2 miles S of Cades Cove and including Laurel Lake and points covered last winter). Dec. 21; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear to partly cloudy; temp. 12° to 47°; wind variable, under 10 m.p.h. Twenty-three observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours, 58 (45 on foot, 13 in car); total party-miles, 166 (40 on foot, 126 by car). This is the second count in this area which is well to the west of the Gatlinburg area, worked so thoroughly for 19 years or more. The new area contains more water and shore line and more bird life. Apparently the new counts will run about 10 more species than were found in the old area. The present number was 64.—John Elson, Mary Enloe, Mr. and Mrs. Harold C. Garlinghouse, Quincy A. Gorman, Philip A. Huff, David Highbaugh, Ralph E. Lawson, Jr., Mrs. Elsie S. Janson, Tony

Koella, Dorothy MacLean, William T. Martin, Jr., J. T. Mengel, Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Monroe, Mrs. E. E. Overton, Richard W. Russell, Mrs. Prince Sluder, Arthur Stupka (compiler), Mrs. Thomas C. Swindell, Dr. James T. Tanner, Dr. and Mrs. Samuel R. Tipton (Tennessee Ornithological Society, National Park Service, and guests).

Greensboro, N. C. (standard area centering $\frac{1}{2}$ mile SW of WBIG transmitter. Deciduous and pine woods, 25%; thickets, 15%; fresh water lakes and ponds, 25%; open fields, 15%; marsh and wooded swamps, 10%; lawns and parks, 10%). Jan. 3—outside of the national time limit by 2 days—6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Temp. 33° to 36°; wind NE, 4 to 10 m.p.h. Cloudy, a.m.; clear, p.m. *Thirty five* observers in *15 parties* Total party-hours, 110 $\frac{3}{4}$ (74 $\frac{1}{2}$ on foot, 36 $\frac{1}{4}$ in car); total party-miles, 283 (47 on foot, 236 by car). Greensboro's record turnout of observers brought in astronomical figures from a roost. According to George Smith, "Blackbirds coming in to roost were estimated at 500,000 by checking roosting area dimensions and making observations of bird density at numerous places. Grackles and Starlings were estimated in equal numbers and accounting for $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total; Cowbirds and Rustys made up the remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ and were in equal numbers. (A heavy cold rain fell most of Jan. 1 and continued for most of the night. Mortality from exposure was very heavy. A check of dead birds resulted in an estimate that somewhat over 10,000 died that night. At least $\frac{2}{3}$ were Common Grackles with Brown-headed Cowbirds and Rusty Blackbirds accounting for nearly all of the remaining $\frac{1}{3}$. Starlings were found to be leaving the roost to seek shelter in every possible place. They were under eaves, porches, roofs, and even inside of outhouses wherever an opening could be found, by the hundreds and thousands)."

When we pull the roost population from the total count, for comparisons, we are back to earth with 14,782. Last winter's count was 14,474 and that included 6,744 Starlings. So, we conclude that the individual count was up. The species count (79) was 2 below last year's. Twelve White-crowned Sparrows are noteworthy. There were none last year but 13 the winter before.—Inez Coldwell, Mrs. F. H. Craft, Larry Crawford, Mrs. R. C. Crocker, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Daniels, Charlotte Dawley, Mrs. R. D. Douglas, Mrs. J. L. Hege, Mrs. James Heilig, C. R. Lamb, James Mattocks, Mrs. R. E. McCoy, Ethel McNairy, Mrs. Franklin McNutt, Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Melton, Ida Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Perrett, Dr. and Mrs. C. I. Reed, Etta Schiffman, Mrs. Edith Settan, Dr. and Mrs. A. D. Shaftesbury, George A. Smith (compiler), Mrs. W. F. Smyre, Thomas Street, Hal H. Strickland, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Swart, Linda Trogon, Mrs. W. R. Troxler, Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, and Mrs. R. H. Weisner. (Piedmont Bird Club).

Henderson, N. C. (area unchanged). Dec. 26; hours not noted; temp. 18° to 35°. Clear, cold, frosty. Three observers in 1 party. There were no unusual species found. No surprise was the drop from last winter's 60 Eastern Bluebirds to this winter's 14.—Jeannette Bachman, Mariel Gray (compiler), Garnette Myers.

Jefferson, N. C. (standard area centering at James Miller's, near Todd, N. C.). Dec. 28; 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Solid downpour of rain all day long and all of the night before. River bridges washed out; temp. 38° to 44°; wind SE at 2 to 4 m.p.h. Three observers in one party. Total party-hours, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ on foot, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in car, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ in jeep); total party-miles, 50 (2 on foot, 40 by car, 8 by jeep).—Common Crow, 9; Tufted Titmouse, 5; Eastern Bluebird, 10; House Sparrow, 25; Cardinal, 5; Am. Goldfinch, 1; Vesper Sparrow, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 52; Fox Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 2. Total species, 10. Total individuals, 111. Observers, Mrs. A. Burman Hurt (compiler), Johnny Jackson, James Miller. This count is not in the accompanying table because of space limitations. It is a valuable contribution, nevertheless, and the observers deserve a great deal of credit for their long hours in such vile weather.

Lenoir, N. C. (area unchanged). Jan. 1; 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Clear; temp. 50° to 60°; wind S to SE, 3 to 4 m.p.h. Fourteen observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 26 (22 on foot, 4 in car); total party-miles, 70 (12 on

foot, 58 by car). This the first Lenoir report to show numbers of individuals since 1955, when 36 species were listed. The highest species count has been 45.—Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Bernard, Mrs. Mark Goforth, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Greer, Miss Margaret Harper, Miss Florence Hoyer, Miss Irene Hoyer, Frank Hoyer (compiler), J. T. Ingram, Mr. and Mrs. Fred May, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Parks.

Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, New Holland, N. C. (standard area centering at Mattamuskeet Lodge same as in previous counts). Dec. 28; 12:01 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Overcast and raining throughout the day; temp. 43° to 60°; wind SE to S, about 5 to 12 m.p.h. Ground bare, water open. Eight observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 27 (10 on foot, 14 in car, 3 in boat); total party-miles, 199 (5 on foot, 177 by car, 17 by boat). Compared with the '57 count, parties increased from 2 to 3 and observers, from 4 to 8. Bad weather apparently cut the individual count to one-third of last year's figure but good coverage disclosed 101 species—a new high for the refuge. Six Bald Eagles sounds like a good count but **thirty-six** were tallied on the '55 count. A **Black and White Warbler** seen by R. L. Wolff, Bobby Powell and Bob Ross, was unusual, and so was a White-crowned Sparrow, seen by Bill Joyner and Bill Cahoon. Both species had been seen in the area, Dec. 26.—Leon G. Ballance, William E. Basnight, Refuge Manager, Willie G. Cahoon, John C. Fields, Bill Joyner, Bobby Powell, Bob Ross, Royston R. Rudolph (compiler), Robert L. Wolff.

New London, N. C. (standard area centering 2 miles northwest of Badin, Stanly County, as in past years). Dec. 31; 4:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Overcast in a.m., cloudy in p.m.; temp. 39° to 48°; wind NE, 4 to 5 m.p.h. Seventeen observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 40 (13 on foot, 27 in car); total party-miles, 299 (13 on foot, 286 by car). A few species below average, due probably to the weather. There was a very heavy count of Eastern Bluebirds. Several commonplace species did not show. Two Chipping Sparrows were seen.—Mrs. Barrett Crook, Mrs. E. S. Blivens, Susan Green, C. M. Haithcock, Barbara Hatley, Gale Mahathey, Donald Maner, Mrs. James Mauney, Dwight Morgan, Tommy Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Norwood, Ervin Poplin, John Trott (compiler), Jane Turner, Mrs. John Whitlock, Miss Benny Wingate.

Raleigh, N. C. (Practically the same area as previous counts; lakes and small ponds 25%, mixed pines and deciduous woodland 40%, deciduous woodland 20%, open fields 15%). Dec. 30; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear all day, calm; temp. 40° to 60°; ground bare, water open. Five observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 40 (30 on foot, 10 in car); total party-miles, 48 (20 on foot, 28 by car). An unusually high count for Raleigh. A Common Merganser, inland, was rare. The very large number of Rufous-sided Towhees listed in noteworthy. Two Baltimore Orioles were seen at a feeder, Dec. 29 by Mrs. John Rhodes.—Phil Davis, James Green, Jay Johnson, Ethel Wray, David Wray (compiler).

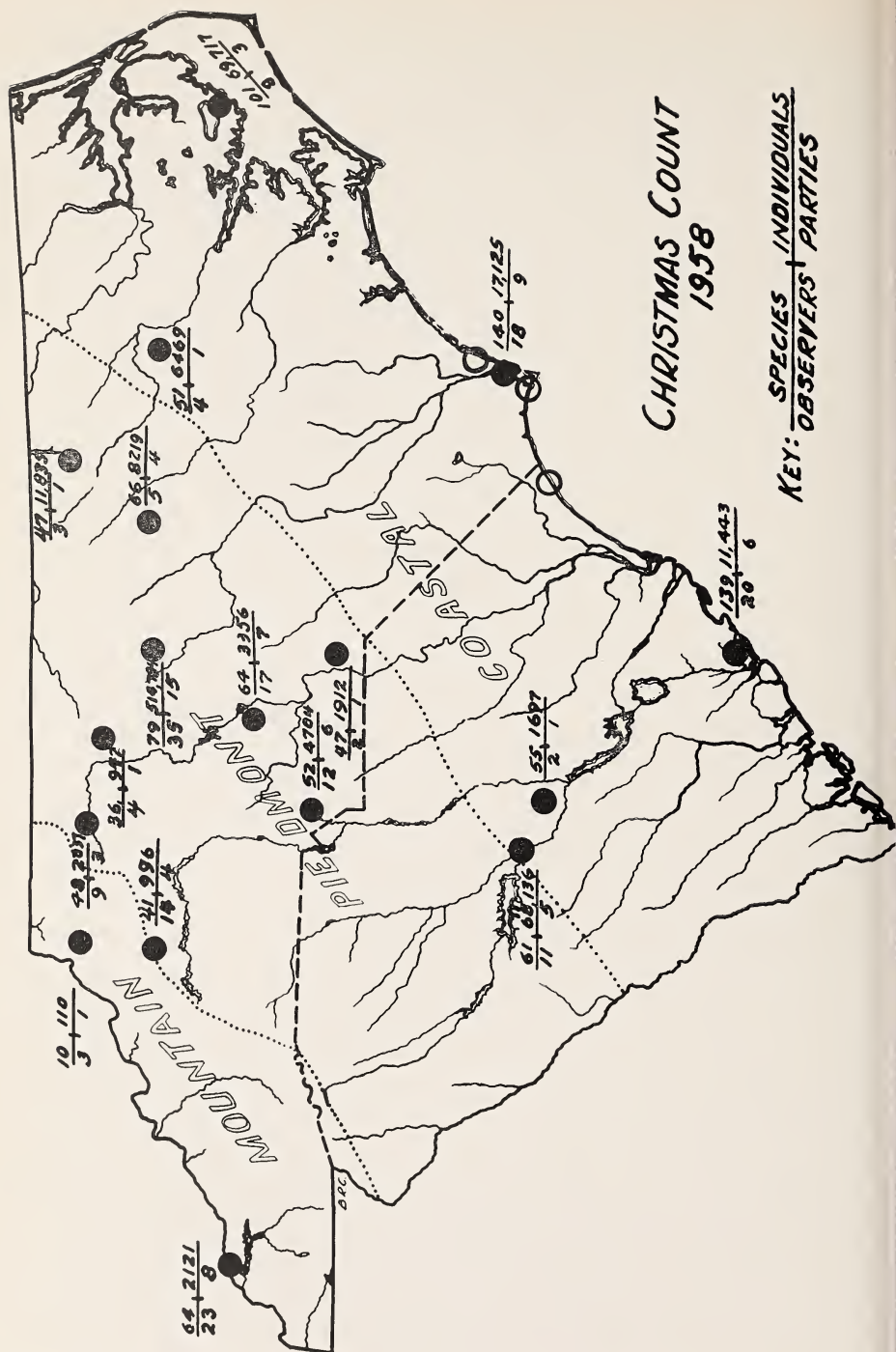
Rockingham, N. C. (area centering at Seaboard Railway Depot—limited to 4 mile radius by 2 parties; 5% marsh; 45% lakes and ponds; 25% deciduous woodland; 10% pinewoods; 15% fields and brush). Dec. 29; 6:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Cloudy; temp. 40° to 60°; wind 3-8 m.p.h. Two observers in two parties. Total party-hours, 23 (all on foot); total party-miles, 28 (all on foot). Rockingham is in Richmond County, in south-central North Carolina. To our knowledge, this is the first census ever to be reported from this area. It appears that a very good start has been made.—Victor Duehring, Nicky Lovin (compiler).

Rocky Mount, N. C. (standard area centering north of Rocky Mount, as in past years). Dec. 26; 6:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Clear and cold; temp. 20° to 45°; wind low, heavy frost; most small ponds frozen over. Four observers in one party in p.m.; compiler alone in a.m. Total party-miles 121 (1 on foot, 120 by car). The high Black Vulture count included 51 at a garbage pit. Robins accounted for nearly 80 per cent of the total individuals.—Anne and C. D. Benbow, Eleanor and Bill Joyner (compiler).

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CHRISTMAS COUNT 1958

KEY: SPECIES INDIVIDUALS
OBSERVERS PARTIES



Christmas Count
1958

	Individual Totals	Charleston, S. C.	Wilmington, N. C.	Mattamuskeet	Rocky Mount, N. C.	Columbia, S. C.	Eastover, S. C.	Henderson, N. C.	Raleigh, N. C.	Rockingham, N. C.	New London, N. C.	Charlotte, N. C.	Greensboro, N. C.	Winston-Salem, N. C.	Lenoir, N. C.	Elkin, N. C.	Gr. Smoky Mts., N. C.
Common Loon	26	4	20	1									1				
Red-throated Loon	40		40														
Horned Grebe	93	47	31	8													
Pied-billed Grebe	122	33	32	6		6	6						2				10
Brown Pelican	6	5	1						15	4			8	2			
Gannet	11		11														
D-c Cormorant	55	33	22														
Great Blue Heron	112	44	32	8	2	3		3	1	6	7		4				2
Little Blue Heron	27	25	2														
Common Egret	108	28	75	5													
Snowy Egret	25	17	6	2													
Louisiana Heron	48	27	21														
Black-cr. Nt. Heron	22	12	2	8													
Yellow-cr. Nt. Heron	3		8														
Am. Bittern	7	3		4													
White Ibis	8	8															
Whistling Swan	125			125							30					206	
Canada Goose	36,157		565	35,000									31	325			
Snow Goose	20			20													
Blue Goose	74			73												1	
Mallard	2,211	181	360	1,200		2			3	6	6	1	109	160		141	50
Black Duck	1,500	832	117	500						4			42	3		2	2
Gadwall	264	213	42	9													
Pintail	5,487	295	180	5,000					8								4
Green-winged Teal	1,274	191	1,000	75	7												1
Blue-winged Teal	33	30	3														
Am. Widgeon	1,346	300	72	900	1								71			2	
Shoveler	309	300	6	2						3			1				
Wood Duck	19	5	6	2	1		2										3
Redhead	6	1	1										1				
Ring-necked Duck	587	114	4	7		80	37		128				165	12			40
Canvasback	443	23	1	400									17	2			
Scaup (sp)	783	474	5	276					12	6			4	2			4
Common Goldeneye	17	3		12									2				
Bufflehead	435	86	87	210					1				49				2
Oldsquaw	8	1		7													

Christmas Count
1958

	Charleston, S. C.	Wilmington, N. C.	Mattamuskeet	Rocky Mount, N. C.	Columbia, S. C.	Eastover, S. C.	Henderson, N. C.	Raleigh, N. C.	Rockingham, N. C.	New London, N. C.	Charlotte, N. C.	Greensboro, N. C.	Winston-Salem, N. C.	Lenoir, N. C.	Elkin, N. C.	Gr. Smoky Mts., N. C.
Individual Totals	1	1	32	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
White-winged Scoter ..	33	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Surf Scoter ..	151	32	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Scoter ..	100+	7	1,050	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ruddy Duck ..	1,221	38	6	..	..	..	106	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hooded Merganser ..	169	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Merganser ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Red-breasted Merganser	16	81	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Turkey Vulture ..	100	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Black Vulture ..	111	31	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sharp-shinned Hawk ..	122	26	14	53	7	9	3	4	..	3	..	40	..	..	18	3
Cooper's Hawk ..	10	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	7	..	..	..	..
Red-tailed Hawk ..	12	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	..	..	..	..
Red-shouldered Hawk ..	55	7	4	1	4	1	6	1	..	2	3	18	..	..	2	4
Bald Eagle ..	37	5	4	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	6	..	..	..	..
Marsh Hawk ..	11	4	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pigeon Hawk ..	31	7	3	1	2	3	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	2	1
Sparrow Hawk ..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ruffed Grouse ..	104	10	22	5	7	2	2	4	4	9	1	11	..	3	..	2
Bobwhite ..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Turkey ..	233	12	3	1	15	19	27	..	10	58	25	27	..	7	9	5
Clapper Rail ..	5	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sora Rail ..	33	24	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Gallinule ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Am. Coot ..	21	20	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Am. Oystercatcher ..	1,744	1,100+	300	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	66	..	..	..	141
Semipalmated Plover ..	111	80	31	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Piping Plover ..	10	7	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Killdeer ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Black-bellied Plover ..	465	17	18	32	12	3	2	7	3	3	16	22	..	7	..	28
Ruddy Turnstone ..	108	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Am. Woodcock ..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Snipe ..	10	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Spotted Sandpiper ..	34	2	3	4	..	..	..	3	..	6	5	5	..	1	..	..
Willet ..	3	2	1
Greater Yellowlegs ..	53	10	43
Lesser Yellowlegs ..	100	35	63
..	26	1	25

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Knot	2	..	2
Purple Sandpiper	1	..	1
Least Sandpiper	8	..	5	3
Dunlin	951	500 +	450	1
Short-billed Dowitcher	139	24	115
Semipalmated Sandpiper	63	50	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Western Sandpiper	22	20	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sanderling	69	5	64	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gr. Black-backed Gull	9	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Herring Gull	723	22	646	27	..	24	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ring-billed Gull	2,296	195	1,407	168	..	260	..	..	1	..	89	3	..	..	..	..	..
Laughing Gull	4	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	177	..	..	..	..	..
Bonaparte's Gull	8	1	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Forster's Tern	57	1	56	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Tern	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Caspian Tern	3	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mourning Dove	1,853	204	752	26	44	122	3	32	28	16	88	141	266	2	55	47	27
Ground Dove	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Screech Owl	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Great Horned Owl	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Barred Owl	5	1	1	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Belted Kingfisher	68	15	23	5	1	2	..	..	2	5	5	1	3	..	..	1	5
Yellow-shafted Flicker	417	65	51	23	15	44	4	23	32	30	19	26	68	1	3	6	7
Pileated Woodpecker	80	28	2	4	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	1	35
Red-bellied Woodpecker	221	72	34	2	8	13	3	2	12	8	4	10	50	..	1	2	..
Red-headed Woodpecker	44	9	9	..	1	6	..	..	8	..	2	..	9	..	..	..	..
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	112	41	11	3	1	6	2	5	4	3	4	3	13	..	1	11	4
Hairy Woodpecker	58	8	11	1	..	4	2	2	1	6	4	4	14	..	2	2	2
Downy Woodpecker	209	20	17	2	4	5	3	13	6	7	12	9	69	2	..	8	32
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	19	12	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Eastern Phoebe	47	5	2	1	2	5	2	1	1	1	1	..	9	..	..	3	14
Horned Lark	177	..	..	..	62	..	..	..	..	..	25	..	76	..	14	..	..
Tree Swallow	240	..	..	240	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blue Jay	32	93	..	..	23	118	18	35	178	95	34	106	267	10	41	11	8
Common Crow	1,069	105	103	200	73	84	8	57	12	28	113	74	441	..	66	247	137
Fish Crow	56	11	42	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Christmas Count
1958

	Individual Totals	Charleston, S. C.	Wilmington, N. C.	Mattamuskeet	Rocky Mount, N. C.	Columbia, S. C.	Eastover, S. C.	Henderson, N. C.	Raleigh, N. C.	Rockingham, N. C.	New London, N. C.	Charlotte, N. C.	Greensboro, N. C.	Winston-Salem, N. C.	Lenoir, N. C.	Elkin, N. C.	Gt. Smoky Mts., N. C.
Carolina Chickadee	881	46	55	7	6	30	8	34	40	9	66	52	311	10	12	19	176
Tufted Titmouse	533	43	58	..	4	42	..	12	23	25	28	33	162	5	12	13	68
White-breasted Nuthatch . .	75	1	2	..	1	..	3	..	8	..	8	5	35	1	1	7	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch . . .	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	7
Brown-headed Nuthatch . . .	240	34	86	..	..	19	9	10	3	11	5	16	40	1	..	..	7
Brown Creeper	42	4	3	..	..	3	1	7	1	..	3	1	11	2	2	4	..
House Wren	20	10	9	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Winter Wren	33	10	5	2	..	..	..	..	2	2	1	..	3	..	..	..	8
Carolina Wren	436	40	52	15	6	28	5	12	63	50	36	4	123	2	17	18	25
Long-billed Marsh Wren . . .	3	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Short-billed Marsh Wren . . .	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mockingbird	712	18	112	18	20	36	6	17	174	17	25	53	188	8	6	13	1
Catbird	12	4	4	4	..	..	..	..	4	11	..	5	2	1	..	..	..
Brown Thrasher	106	14	26	2	1	37	1	2	4	..	..	..	2	..	6	6	15
Robin	7,477	170	680	1,200	5,000	38	9	2	3	300	3	43	2	..	..	..	..
Wood Thrush	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hermit Thrush	61	9	10	2	2	9	2	1	2	..	3	2	9	..	1	6	3
Eastern Bluebird	961	12	67	3	17	56	9	14	24	30	100	111	357	..	11	112	38
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	5	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	8	3	31	8	3	2	116
Golden-crowned Kinglet . . .	228	5	4	..	..	6	..	38	3	..	..	..	7	4	..	4	4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	266	82	18	5	2	59	11	18	2	20	21	7	7	4	2	13	..
Water Pipit	469	104	154	..	38	..	55	..	50	30	30	16	9	..	..	42	25
Cedar Waxing	294	22	27	..	..	40	46	..	15	33	35	31	..	13	9	3	..
Loggerhead Shrike	262	20	29	..	31	13	10	13	10	5	..	16	67	1	..	..	..
Starling	215,546	263	624	130	530	4,375	89	10,325	4,450	35	272	2,400	192,672	9	30	211	131
White-eyed Vireo	4	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Solitary Vireo	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Black and White Warbler . .	3	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Orange-crowned Warbler . . .	3	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Myrtle Warbler	1,658	736+	430	400	5	1	1	11	9	2	4	14	22	..	1	18	4
Yellow-throated Warbler . . .	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pine Warbler	196	33	35	6	1	60	8	2	3	2	5	6	31	1	..	..	3
Palm Warbler	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yellowthroat	13	7	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
House Sparrow	3,063	..	286	40	124	645	155	25	565	65	189	173	694	15	50	7	30
Eastern Meadowlark	3,534	62	583	26	99	879	46	56	429	60	470	127	488	1	45	91	72

Christmas Count
1958

	Individual Totals	Charleston, S. C.	Wilmington, N. C.	Mattamuskeet	Rocky Mount, N. C.	Columbia, S. C.	Eastover, S. C.	Henderson, N. C.	Raleigh, N. C.	Rockingham, N. C.	New London, N. C.	Charlotte, N. C.	Greensboro, N. C.	Winston-Salem, N. C.	Lenoir, N. C.	Elkin, N. C.	Gr. Smoky Mts., N. C.
Redwinged Blackbird	77,011	1,186+	3,918	21,000	9	50,452	300				9		133				4
Baltimore Oriole	2		2			415	500			250	1	20	62,710				
Rusty Blackbird	64,107	200	11														
Boat-tailed Grackle	472	313+	159			114	10						188,078				
Common Grackle	189,005	258+	45	500		8,024	100		10				62,800				
Brown-headed Cowbird	70,970		12	1	23												
Cardinal	1,743	70	84	30	19	169	29	27	177	105	112	217	424	25	31	126	98
Purple Finch	296	21	33			4		42	12		7	67	47	6	20	36	1
Pine Siskin	11								8		3						
Am. Goldfinch	1,105	40	94	9	5	63	2	46	65	40	179	62	311	10	123	10	46
Rufous-sided Towhee	807	135	115	24	12	128	14	54	105	25	9	25	116	15	8	6	16
Savannah Sparrow	241	15	98	26	14			8	12	14	4	18	1		25	3	3
Grasshopper Sparrow	1		1														
Henslow's Sparrow	3		3														
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	27	15	10	2													
Seaside Sparrow	53	47	6														
Vesper Sparrow	190	25	138			17	2			2	3						
Bachman's Sparrow	3	1	2												3		
Slate-colored Junco	5,312	260+	294	4	36	102	63	310	728	106	834	340	1,525	225	230	162	193
Chipping Sparrow	462	94	227			138					2	1					
Field Sparrow	1,467	21	73	10	12	360		220	142	55	145	52	228	2	29	4	114
White-crowned Sparrow	45			1									12		20	12	
White-throated Sparrow	4,359	336+	337	105	70	806	55	84	465	350	150	138	851	49	65	331	167
Fox Sparrow	176	3	88	22		2			4		3	1	22	10	3	13	5
Swamp Sparrow	278	60	170	3		3	4		4		2		8		2		22
Song Sparrow	1,332	107	214	41	33	125	7	120	95	50	48	38	286	2	28	25	113
Number of species		139	140	101	51	61	55	47	66	47	64	52	79	36	41	48	64
Number of individuals	725,498	11,443	17,125	69,717	6,469	68,136	1,697	11,835	8,219	1,912	3,356	4,704	514,784	947	996	2,037	2,121

"—NOT JUST TO SHOOT AT"

GLADYS BAKER

At least one young Tar Heel citizen knows that "hawks are not just to shoot at."

Wilbur Blackley, a member of Miss Irma Walker's Biology class at Wakelon High School, Zebulon, N. C., has developed considerable interest in and enthusiasm for hawks through his work on a project for the 1958 Science Fair at his school. "The study and work that went into my project have convinced me," he says, "that hawks are man's friends and not his enemies."

"Sure, a hawk will catch and kill an occasional chicken," he adds, "but it will also eat thousands of insects, rodents, snakes and other pests which would do more damage than the hawk would ever do. I will never shoot another hawk."

That is his reaction now. When the project was first suggested to him, he said, "Hawks? I thought they were just to shoot at!"

The principal exhibit in Wilbur's project was a 3' by 2½' plywood poster. Using information from Hawks Circular 25, distributed by Charlotte Hilton Green for the Carolina Bird Club, Wilbur selected three hawks, sawed out plywood silhouettes of them in painstaking detail, painted the silhouettes in primitive style with enamel paint, and mounted the finished product on the white-painted background. Below each hawk he mounted similarly sawed and painted silhouettes of the various larger items in its diet. Not even Wilbur could saw the ins and out of a plywood grasshopper. He cut those from cardboard and colored them with crayons. To complete the story, he lettered labels giving names and percentages and mounted them under the appropriate silhouettes.

Wilbur lives with his mother on Route 3, Zebulon. He has four sisters and one brother. He is already a farmer at age 17, having four acres of tobacco and 5½ acres of corn of his own. He likes to go to school and doesn't mind saying so. He is especially interested in nature study, and is a good student in other areas as well, making an A average. He hopes that he can get a scholarship to N. C. State or to U. N. C.

This young man is not the only person in his school who has developed a new respect for hawks. Copies of the hawk circular and of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service leaflet, "Protect Our Hawks and Owls," were posted on bulletin boards and distributed to students from the Third Grade through High School.

Larry Perry from Mrs. Coressa Chamblee's Sixth Grade, did hours of research gathering information for a talk about hawks, and then, assisted by Charles Collins, a classmate, and armed with Wilbur's poster and with Mrs. Green's leaflets, he spoke to every class from the Third Grade through the Eighth, leaving leaflets for the bulletin board and urging every student to "Tell your Mamas and Daddies that the hawk is their friend and not their enemy."

On second thought, there must be more than 500 young citizens in the Wakelon community alone, not counting any grown-ups who may have caught some of the kids' enthusiasm, who know now that "hawks are not just to shoot at."—*Zebulon, N. C.*

Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia. Robert E. Stewart and Chandler S. Robbins. No. 62 of North American Fauna. Fish and Wildlife Service. U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1958. pp 401, 69 maps, 1 plate. \$1.75 paper. This is a *distribution* study and a very fine one. As for a state book as we have come to know them, it ends abruptly when the text is reached (p.42). There is a handsome frontispiece by the master painter Fuertes. The volume contains no plumages, no field marks, no songs, no food, no habits, and no sub-species, almost. What is in it? A wealth of information on what type habitat is where, what birds are in it, and when they are there.

Intensive field work on the project was begun by the authors in 1941 at Patuxent Research Refuge, between Washington and Baltimore, and later extended over the entire area. To supplement their personal observations, the extensive files of the Fish and Wildlife Service and numerous other pertinent literature and records were critically examined and screened. It seems safe to say that at no other place in the East, if not in the Country, is there so much distribution information available. Accepted for the regular list were: (1) a specimen preserved; (2) a satisfactory photograph taken (Avocet); (3) three or more reliable sight observations made.

The sections dealing with the breeding birds of the several biotic areas under study deserve careful attention. They interpret a substantial part of the data in the text. The division of coastal Maryland into Upper Chesapeake, Eastern Shore and Western Shore sections is new. With this refinement, it seems that a case could be supported for a fourth section, embracing the ocean front—especially since a ridge separates it from the interior. Worcester County, largely because of the ocean, is spelled out to the exclusion of other counties for the occurrence under one category or another of no less than sixty species, or at least 18 percent of the entire listing.

The text is well organized. Following the A. O. U. Check-List name (1957), the material is presented under Status, Habitat, Nesting Season, Spring Migration, Fall Migration, Maximum Counts, Banding and others, as appropriate. In most cases, each group is sub-divided.

Originally intended for closing at the end of 1955, the Species Account was extended through October, 1956. An appendix gives several important reports through December 1957. Also appended is a list of 99 plants mentioned in the text. The species index is thoughtfully cross-referenced with the "old" Check-List names.

Students of distribution will do well to get this book.—B. R. Chamberlain, *Matthews, N. C. October 4, 1958.*

CBC Midwinter Trip

An enthusiastic, newly formed group of bird watchers, all CBC members, welcomed us warmly to Myrtle Beach, S. C., for our mid-winter field trip on the last weekend of January. The finely organized field trips on Saturday yielded a list of 108 species, heavily weighted with water birds. This was appropriate since the weather was comfortable only for water birds and birders. To one used to the more arduous and less remunerative winter birding of the north, the variety to be seen on our coast was a revelation. Let's hope for a repeat performance some day.—C.H.B.

Plan now to come to the spring field trip at Chapel Hill, May 8-10. Aside from the birds of the northern Piedmont, you will see Wallace Patterson's movies which show what the birds at your backyard feeding shelf are really up to. See also page 21.

Let us make this an extra good year for spring counts. Try to pick the best weekend for migrants. This would be a good occasion for each member of CBC to enroll a new member.



BACKYARD BIRDING

Backyard birders in central South Carolina had an unusual opportunity to study birds at close range when the heavy snow of December 11 and 12 brought them flocking to our feeders. Sleet was falling when we woke up Thursday morning, and every twig and leaf and branch was covered with ice, even two red buds on the rose outside our window! About noon, the snow started and continued until the next morning, when the temperature at Eastover was *four* degrees! The only food the birds could get was what was put out for them, for the feathery snow was soft on top of the layer of solid ice, and there was no getting to the ground at all. At our kitchen window, I had replaced our old feeder with one with a wire bottom. That very cold morning there were no birds here, though there was grain in tin pans. Then I realized that the birds' feet could freeze to the metal, for they would hover over the tray, then fly off. So I got several shoe box tops and put grain and bread crumbs in them, and put them out. Then the White-throated Sparrows and Cardinals came right on in, but they were careful to fly straight to the edge of the cardboard box. I would put water on the feeder, but it would freeze so quickly that I never saw any bird drink. I noticed the White-throated sparrows eating snow! On the north side of our home, the feeder by the birdbath was of no use at all, so I finally solved the problem by dragging a large wooden box out of the garage and placing it on its side by the birdbath. Then inside this box I put baby scratch chicken feed. I tried table scraps, too, but these attracted stray dogs and a big black cat, so there wasn't much left for the birds, but I did notice that the Blue Jays and the Hermit Thrush seemed to prefer scraps to the ground grain. Also several Grackles and eight Red-winged Blackbirds would eat just about anything. But the Cardinals (about fifteen of them), several Towhees, the pair of Brown Thrashers, one Mockingbird, and one Song Sparrow, about fifty White-throated sparrows and one big fluffy Fox Sparrow all ate heartily of the grain. My sister across the highway from us phoned that they had put food under their picnic table in their side yard, and that there were eight Fox Sparrows and a whole flock of Juncos feeding there. Occasionally, a pair each of Chipping and Field Sparrows would come to our box to feed. On the window feeder, the Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, Brown-headed Nuthatches, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Pine Warblers, and Carolina Wrens were continually coming and going, from daylight until dark. I had mixed meal with bacon grease, and put balls of this out on the feeder, since the lumps of suet seemed so solidly frozen that the birds had a hard time picking it. A female Red-bellied Woodpecker was about the only one that could manage to get any off. All during the real cold days I would add every few hours more bread crumbs, grain, and wet bread. You know, a Blue Jay can carry off a whole slice of dry bread at one peck, but if the bread is moistened with warm water or milk, it will tear easily, and all the Jay will get is one bite! Surely all the Bird Club members, Garden

Club ladies, and the boys and girls in the Junior Audubon Clubs in our schools fed the birds around their homes in this emergency. Even the announcer of Radio station WIS in Columbia several times a day reminded people to feed their birds, and I am sure that many birds were kept alive by the thoughtfulness of their human friends.—*Dept. Editor.*

Mrs. Francis Barrington, of Charleston, gives us the following interesting summary of the appearances of an unusual bird:

For twelve consecutive seasons we have had the Orange-crowned Warbler frequently (sometimes many times a day) at our bird bath and window feeder. Our first record was in the winter of 1947-1948, when on January 14, 1948, we first identified him. (I had learned this species in the field in 1941.) Each winter since, without exception, this species has appeared, usually between the middle of October and the middle of November, and remained until well into April. We have never done any banding, but we are reasonably certain that many times during this twelve year period the bird of the current year has been the same individual of the preceding year or years. We have arrived at this conclusion from noting individual characteristics and individual markings. For instance, for four or five years we had one of these warblers that showed on arrival that he knew just where each special food was to be found . . . beef suet, raw oatmeal, and dried fig. He showed no concern about us, though our faces inside the window were but twelve to fourteen inches from him as he fed! (Some years, these birds are at first quite shy.) This bird also showed that he felt that the feeding grounds were his. When other birds, some much larger than himself, encroached, he would rear back, open his sharp little beak, and give an almost audible hiss! His strategy would frequently result in routing the other bird. During this period this bird's feedings came with clock-like regularity. A number of times we asked friends out to see him at a given time . . . and there he was! We believe that during this four to five year period our Orange-crowned Warbler was surely the same bird. Last year, the year before, and again this year, the Orange-crowned Warbler has shown an irregularity in plumage. Just beneath the shoulder section of the wing a bit of breast fluff protrudes, as if, after preening, he had "forgotten" to smooth it back under. So we believe this year's visitor has also been with us before.

Only a few times have we seen more than one bird at a time during the season, and then there were only two for a short period one fall. Forbush (*Birds of Massachusetts*) says that "this warbler may be seen rarely in small companies, but more often singly . . ."

South Carolina Bird Life gives the status of this bird in South Carolina as . . . "Fairly common winter resident, September 20 to May 11, chiefly in the coast region," and goes on to state that it is a "plain, unobtrusive, inconspicuous little warbler virtually unknown to most South Carolinians."

We now look forward to the arrival of our little guest as each fall comes around. This year, 1958, we first noted him on November 4.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Date of Arrival</i>
(1) 1947—1948	Jan. 14, 1948
(2) 1948—1949	Dec. 30, 1948
(3) 1949—1950	Nov. 15, 1949
(4) 1950—1951	Nov. 22, 1950
(5) 1951—1952	Nov. 21, 1951
(6) 1952—1953	Nov. 8, 1952
(7) 1953—1954	Oct. 16, 1953
(8) 1954—1955	Oct. 17, 1954
(9) 1955—1956	Oct. 18, 1955
(10) 1956—1957	Nov. 20, 1956
(11) 1957—1958	Nov. 1, 1957
(12) 1958—1959	Nov. 4, 1958

Dates of arrival of an Orange-crowned Warbler at the feeding station of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Barrington, Charleston, S. C.

STRIGIOLOGY AT MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL

JOSEPH R. NORWOOD

Sometime during July, 1957, a pair of Barn Owls were winging back and forth over eastern Rutherford county, N. C., in search of a suitable nesting site. The search was rather disheartening as suitable sites are not too easy to find these days. Finally they found what appeared to be an ideal place, an "abandoned" building with a broken window sash through which they could gain entrance. Inside was a bare floor on which "Mrs." owl could lay her eggs, which she proceeded to do. What the owls didn't know was that the "abandoned" building was the gymnasium of Mount Vernon School, near Forest City, and that before their progeny left the nest, they would be the object of daily visits, hold up basketball practice and hit the wires of United Press as well as becoming the subject of several articles and an editorial in *The Rutherford County News*.

The broken window at the rear of the gym was about thirty feet from the ground, and directly inside was the nesting site, a little balcony that was about ten feet above the main floor of the gym. All went smoothly with the owl family for a short time until someone reported to Mr. H. D. Dillingham, agriculture teacher, that a large white bird had been seen flying out the back window of the gym on July 20. Investigating, Mr. Dillingham found five white eggs on the bare floor in one corner of the balcony and identified the "bird" as a Barn Owl. More important he recognized that this owl was a valuable bird worthy of protection. Continued observation revealed that two of the eggs disappeared in some manner, a third hatched around September 5, and the other two at "about ten-day intervals," as well as he recalls. A. C. Bent in his *Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey* gives 21-24 days for incubation, so there would seem to be some discrepancy in the above dates.

About this time school opened, and the Mount Vernon High championship basketball team wanted to begin practice. This upset the owl family no end, and for a time their security was in jeopardy. However, a conference of Mr. Dillingham, Mr. Ken Griffin, the team coach, and Mr. Paul Harrill, the principal, resulted in a victory for the forces of conservation and the owls. The team turned the gym over to the owl family until they departed the nest. It was then that the *Rutherford County News* noted this fact in an article which was picked up by the United Press and released world-wide. (I saw the article in the *Charlotte Observer*.) As a result the school received letters from as far away as California and Berlin, Germany.

Mr. Dillingham reported that the young were fed mostly by one bird, presumably the mother, although the other adult was seen at times. The students assisted by bringing rats, squirrels, rabbits and chicken heads, the last not popular with the owls at all. Mr. Dillingham noted as many as fifteen rats and mice, brought by the parents, in the nest at one time and observed the owlets typically devouring the rodents headfirst. Almost everyone in the community got to see the family, and the youngsters would oblige by putting on a great show, hissing, snapping their bills and running at the visitors. A screen was placed over the nest to protect the young—or was it the stream of sightseers themselves that needed protection?—and the now-repaired window was left open for the convenience of the parents. Mr.

Dillingham said the parent owls made no effort to protect the nest but simply flew silently out the window when someone approached. The young owls were even displayed at the school's annual Halloween carnival.

The three owls finally fledged November 16-17. This seems a little late (Bent states that normally Barn Owls are ready to leave the nest about eight weeks after hatching) but might have been due to the somewhat unnatural state of affairs under which they were reared. I was there on November 21, and two students, Wilbur Greene and Henry Hodge, very kindly showed me the nesting site and gave me a case history on the owls. They said that one of the young had returned to the gym the day before, was captured and then released.

The *Rutherford County News* about this time ran a very good editorial on the value of barn owls entitled "Owls Worth Money to Rutherford Farmers." More important, this whole episode was a wonderful first-hand experience in learning the habits and the value of a bird of prey both for the youngsters and oldsters of the community.

A few more such experiences, with guidance by fine teachers such as Mr. Dillingham, would go a long way toward realizing the Carolina Bird Club's goal in our predatory bird protection project.—*Charlotte, North Carolina, August 4, 1958*

Concluded from p. 5

Wilmington, N. C. (standard area centering at Myrtle Grove, as in the past 13 counts). Dec. 27; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Overcast all day; temp. 33° to 59°; wind ENE, av. 14.3 m.p.h. Eighteen observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours, 100 (55 on foot, 45 in car); total party miles, 477 (64 on foot, 413 by car). Essentially the same count as last year's. The increase in individual totals is more than off-set by the 4,000 Redwinged Blackbirds seen. A single Purple Sandpiper was seen. It wasn't present, or was missed, last year. The Killdeer count jumped twelvefold. The Eastern Phoebe count dropped from 25 last year to 2. Bachman's and Grasshopper Sparrows, both on last year's list were found again. A Cattle Egret was seen, Dec. 28.—Cecil Appleberry, Edna Appleberry (compiler), Maurice Barnhill, III, Mrs. E. E. Boegli, Clifford Comeau, Mrs. Betty Everson, Dr. & Mrs. Robert P. Holmes, III, Miss Elizabeth Holmes, John Irvine, Jr., Bill James, Horace Loftin, Greg Massey, Mrs. Polly Mebane, Miss Roxanna Mebane, John Trott, Mrs. Mary Urich, Mrs. Marie Vander Schalie. (Members and guests of the Wilmington Natural Science Club).

Winston-Salem, N. C. (standard area centering between City Lake and Yadkin River, same as past several years—excluding County Farm; including Yadkin River). Jan. 1; 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Heavy to light rain; temp. 32° to 34°; wind, ENE, 0 to 5 m.p.h. Four observers in 1 party. Total party-hours, 9 (6 on foot, 3 in car); total party-miles, 25 (3 on foot, 22 by car). Bad weather plus single party coverage account for the low count. Normal count, about 50 species.—L. Hartsell Cash, Dr. and Mrs. Merrill P. Spencer, Robert H. Witherington (compiler).

REVIEW

Some aspects of the breeding ecology of the yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*). John V. Dennis. *Bird-Banding*, vol. 29, pp. 169-183, 1958.

Mr. Dennis describes in some detail the brushy thickets in which Chats nest and points out that the minimum area seems to be about three acres, which supports two or three pairs. There is a slight excess of males. Singing declines in Virginia from the end of June. Many birds are leaving the nesting territory by mid-July. Information on weight, sexual distinctions, and molt is included.—C. H. Blake.



GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. B. Chamberlain, Robert A. Norris, Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

Nesting Season Notes at Raven Knob and North Wilkesboro, N. C. —
I spent the period of June 7 to July 29, 1958, inclusive, as nature counselor at Raven Knob Boy Scout Camp except for five twenty-four hour periods at home on week ends.

Raven Knob is in Surry County, North Carolina, five miles from Low Gap. It is five miles from the Virginia border on Fisher's Peak. The altitude is probably about 1600 feet. Plant life consists mainly of second growth forest of most species of oaks, mockernut and pignut hickory, and red maple. The areas formerly in small fields had been planted to pines. Throughout there were Fraser's magnolia and the cucumber tree. *Rhododendron maximum* and mountain laurel were common. In the natural forest, five species of pine grew but sparingly. I identified white, short-leaved, old-field, pitch, and two or three small table mountain pines. There was a little American holly and the streams were lined with common alder. A pond of one acre and a lake of 33 acres, both created by dams across two fair sized creeks, were on the reservation and had been in existence for some twenty years.

From my cabin I heard as many as five Whip-poor-wills singing simultaneously. Screech and Barred Owls were present. Three pairs of Yellow-billed Cuckoos occupied the immediate area of the camp. I saw Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Broad-winged, Red-shouldered, and Red-tailed Hawks, and an Osprey was present about the lake throughout the season and apparently nested on the mountainside. Other species seen throughout the season about the lake were a pair of Belted Kingfishers, a pair of Pied-billed Grebes, a pair of Rough-winged Swallows, a pair of Green Herons, and a pair of Redwinged Blackbirds. On July 3 and 4, the lake was visited by four Little Blue Herons in immature white plumage. On July 17, a Blue-winged Teal was seen on the lake and on the same date a Spotted Sandpiper was flying about, having difficulty finding a place to feed on the nearly beachless margin. It was seen again on the 18th. A few Wood Thrushes were about but only one Robin was seen on the entire area. (Some 1400 acres of which I explored perhaps a third) One pair of Crows nested not far from camp and two pairs of Blue Jays on the mountainside above the creek and that in a distance of two miles.

At one time I saw seven Turkey Vultures in the air above the mountain and once, I saw a Black Vulture. On a 30-acre tract, two Summer Tanagers nested but I could locate only two Scarlet Tanagers in the whole tract that I traversed. Red-eyed Vireos were common, I noted one Yellow-throated Vireo, and some two or three Solitary Vireos. Prairie Warblers were the

most numerous member of that family as several thousand pine seedlings were set out some years ago and had reached the right height for nesting. Ovenbirds came next and there were a number of Yellow-throated Warblers. I heard only one Parula Warbler during the season. There were a few Black-and-white Warblers and one Louisiana Waterthrush. Two Hooded Warblers nested on the thirty-acre tract. I found one Pine Warbler. Also one Yellowthroat. Indigo Buntings were quite common. Three or four pairs of Field Sparrows and two pairs of Song Sparrows were present. Three pairs of Acadian Flycatchers were on the 30-acre tract. I knew of one pair of Great Crested Flycatchers on the reservation and Wood Pewees were fairly common. There were a number of Rufous-sided Towhees but they were much less common than they are at North Wilkesboro.

On June 6th, I climbed Grandfather Mountain. There was no evidence of Veeries but down the mountainside I heard a Rose-breasted Grosbeak singing.

Here at North Wilkesboro on May 25th, I flushed a Woodcock in the small wooded swamp. The two pairs of Traill's Flycatchers reported last summer were present throughout the nesting season and one pair of Least Flycatchers.

I have not seen either Barn or Rough-winged Swallows since July 20th. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, and Connecticut Warbler were seen on August 16th. Possible last dates for Eastern Kingbird and Yellow Warbler were on Aug. 14th.—WENDELL P. SMITH, *North Wilkesboro, N. C., Aug. 18, 1958.*

A Specimen of the Greater Shearwater from South Carolina.—Sprunt and Chamberlain (*South Carolina Bird Life*, 1949) stated that, although there were old records of the Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*) from the state, no specimens were preserved, and confirmation could not be made at that time.

It is now possible to add confirmation as I picked up a head of a bird of this species on Hiltonhead Island beach, Beaufort Co., S. C., on June 19, 1958. The body of the bird had been dried some weeks, and run over by cars, so the head only was kept. The identification was made by Dr. Herbert Friedmann. The specimen bears my number 856.—IVAN R. TOMKINS, *Savannah, Ga., Dec. 1, 1958.*

Wildfowl Wintering at Mattamuskeet.—Royston R. Rudolph, Management Biologist at the Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, New Holland, N. C., has sent us the following estimate of wildfowl at the refuge this winter of 1958-'59. Peak populations occurred during the period from Nov. 9 to Dec. 13. Concentration was greatest during the week of Nov. 16-22, when some 360,000 wildfowl were present. Some species were found in greatest numbers outside of this latter period. The estimate below, in numerical order, totals 395,150.

Canada Goose	120,000	Gadwall	5,000
Pintail	65,000	Shoveler	2,000
Am. Coot	50,000	Blue-winged Teal	1,000
Ruddy Duck	30,000	Blue Goose	400
Scaup Duck	30,000	Bufflehead	200
Am. Widgeon	25,000	Whistling Swan	200
Ring-necked Duck	25,000	Wood Duck	200
Green-winged Teal	15,000	Snow Goose	50
Black Duck	14,000	Canvasback	50
Mallard	12,000	Redhead	50

Northern Phalarope.—A letter from Ivan Tomkins dated Nov. 24, 1958, reports the occurrence of Northern Phalaropes in the Savannah area this past fall. On Aug. 13, 1958, he found eleven of them at a small rain pond that had formed in a borrow pit area on Hutchinson Island, in the Savannah River at Savannah, Ga. The fall season was unusually dry and water remained in these deeper pools long after other neighboring areas had dried up. The Phalaropes remained in diminishing numbers for a month as shown by the following record of observations: eleven, Aug. 13; seven or eight,

Aug. 23; four, Aug. 26; seven, Sept. 9; and four or five, Sept. 13. On Aug. 23, Tomkins was accompanied by Herman Coolidge, also of Savannah.

Along with the Phalaropes, several species of shore birds were seen and among them a very unusual concentration of Stilt Sandpipers, numbering about fifty on Aug. 13. Their number also diminished by mid-September.

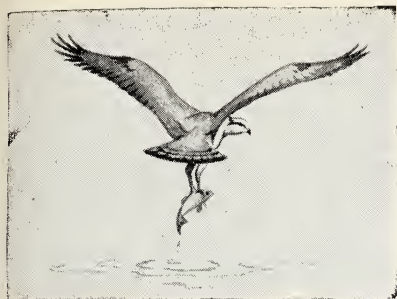
Hutchinson Island, although actually in Georgia is within a few hundred yards of the South Carolina-Georgia line.—*Dept. Ed.*

Lark Bunting Seen in Eastern North Carolina.—A male Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) was seen on July 7, 1958, in Cumberland County, N. C. The bird was perched at the top of a tall oak tree overlooking a broad open field not far from Highway 87, about 7 miles south of Fayetteville. Mrs. Jonathan Courtney, Mrs. Charles T. Haigh, Miss Catsie Huske and the writer were able to look at the bird, with our binoculars, from a distance of about 70 feet, for approximately five minutes. The bird was solid black, with the exception of the large white wing patches; its bill was short and finch-like; its size appeared close to that of a House Sparrow. It appeared to have elevated its head feathers so that the top of the crown seemed to have a slight crest, as often seen on the Purple Finch.—**DORIS C. (MRS. ROSCOE, JR.) HAUSER, Fayetteville, N. C., Oct. 7, 1958** (The Lark Bunting is strictly an Accidental in the Southeast. Single specimens have been taken in Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia. As far as we know, it has never been collected in North Carolina and this sight record constitutes the sole report of its appearance in this state.—*Dept. Ed.*).

Briefs for the Files.

Pied-billed Grebe, a mature bird in a small pond 10 miles E of Charlotte, July 1 & 4, J. R. Norwood. **White Pelican**, 1 (belated report) flying over the Wando River, Cainhoy, Charleston Co., S. C., Peter Manigault, *vide* E. Cutts, Dec. 24, 1957; 1, arrived at Pea Island Refuge, late September and was still present, Dec. 4, T. L. Quay. **Cattle Egret**, 2 or 3 in the Mattamuskeet area as late as Nov. 8, W. G. Cahoon. **Peregrine Falcon**, 1, over Inland Waterway back of Isle of Palms, Charleston County, Oct. 11, Edna Appleberry, *et al*; 2 at Mattamuskeet Refuge, Oct. 23, R. R. Rudolph. **Pigeon Hawk**, 1 at Issequeena Lake, Clemson S. C., Oct. 19, R. H. Peake, Jr. **Golden Plover**, 1, Old Town farm, Rocky Mount, Oct. 26, and another (or the same), Nov. 16, J. W. E. Joyner; 2, Hutchinson Island, Savannah, Ga., Nov. 21, Ivan Tomkins. **Purple Sandpiper**, 2, at Tybee beach, Savannah, Nov. 29, Ivan Tomkins. **Chimney Swift**, last at Clemson, S. C., Oct. 22, R. H. Peake, Jr.; at Rocky Mount, Oct. 18, Joyner; appx., 1000 at North Wilkesboro, Oct. 9, Wendell P. Smith. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, 1 at Clemson, Oct. 10, R. H. Peake, Jr. **Western Kingbird**, 1, Roanoke Island, Dare County, N. C., Oct. 12, Miss Virginia Armstrong (South Lincoln, Mass.); 1 on wire at Wilmington, Oct. 24, Mrs. Dot Earle. **Eastern Phoebe**, 1, Sept. 13—the first seen in almost four months—Hillsboro, N. C., C. H. Blake. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, 1, Charlotte, Sept. 9, Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Norwood. **Philadelphia Vireo**, 1, in yard at Fayetteville, N. C., Sept. 29, Doris C. (Mrs. Roscoe) Hauser; 1, Aug. 16 at North Wilkesboro, Wendell Smith. **Golden-winged Warbler**, 1, one to two days dead at TV tower, Hillsboro, Aug. 16, Charles H. Blake; 1 adult female banded at Effingham, S. C., Sept. 14, E. C. Clyde, Jr. **Blue-winged Warbler**, small flock near Fayetteville, Sept. 9, Mrs. J. A. Shaw, *vide* Doris Hauser. **Wilson's Warbler**, 1, Wilmington, Sept. 1, Greg Massey. **Am. Redstart**, 1, female banded, Nov. 19, Effingham, E. C. Clyde, Jr. **Orchard Oriole**, male, apparently in 3rd. year, at feeder in Charleston yard, Jan. 5 through 10, 1959, Ann W. Richardson, *vide* E. B. Chamberlain. **Brown-headed Cowbird**, 1 young fed by Wood Thrush, Aug. 2 and 3, near Durham, N. C., Mrs. W. C. Davison. **Summer Tanager**, 9 banded, Aug. 17, Hillsboro, C. H. Blake. **Indigo Bunting**, migration peak at Hillsboro, reached about Aug. 26, C. H. Blake. **White-crowned Sparrow**, 1, immature, first ever recorded at Mattamuskeet refuge, Oct. 30, Ava Tabor and party from Louisiana, *vide* Royston Rudolph. **Snow Bunting**, 1, apparently fearless, watched at length at Topsail Beach near Wilmington, Oct. 31, John M. Irvine, Jr.

All dates 1958 unless otherwise noted.



EDITORIAL

News, Reviews, Announcements

Authors, Members, Letters

Items of Interest

It is a pleasure for your new editor to say "well done" to Kay Sisson for her excellent job. He knows he will have trouble filling her shoes.

At this time it is appropriate to make a general statement of policy. We should try to move in three directions: 'mind-stretching' articles of a general nature, birdlife of the Carolinas, and material on particular species. Under the first head we would include conservation in general as well as birds. These same goals will generally govern the books and articles selected for review. One object of the stated policy is to keep us from being too parochial. We should also come to realize and appreciate the diversity of interests that are summed up in ornithology, from behavior to biochemistry, to habitats, and to taxonomy. All of us have contributions to make to some aspect of the subject.

Owing to unforeseen circumstances, the 1959 Annual Meeting of CBC can not be held in March. The essential business will be done at the spring field trip to be held in Chapel Hill, N. C., on May 8-10.

Water and the Cycle of Life. Joseph A. Cocannouer. The Devin-Adair Co., 23 East 26th St., New York 10, N. Y. 143 pp. 1958. Price \$3.00.

This is the story of the ecology of water—its great and growing need by man, how he has so unwisely interfered with its natural cycle, causing erosion, floods and enormous dust bowls. All vital reasons why we must turn a sharp about-face before it is too late, are set down and discussed at length.

It is a book written with an amazing charm for such a subject and so that every person who is able to read, may plainly see the whole picture of water's large and important place in our lives. It should be required reading in every school throughout the country.

Water and the Cycle contains eleven chapters and an excellent fifteen page glossary of water terms which turns out to be a very interesting and instructive part of the book. The first chapter deals briefly with water concepts followed by one of vivid examples of some of the results of the senseless lack of cooperation man has given nature. Other chapters explain the nature of a water cycle and how it functions, its relation to the life cycle; water's relationship to plants, animals and man. The chapter titled "The Road Back" and those covering irrigation, watersheds and the functions of weeds and crops that are great "insoakers", puts fresh hope in the human breast.

Professor Cocannouer has been a dedicated student of water and soil conservation all his adult life and has acquired a fund of firsthand knowledge from all over the world. Other books he has written are *Trampling Out the Vintage*, *Farming with Nature* and *Weeds: Guardians of the Soil*.
—Kay Sisson.



Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, chiefly in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	\$1.00	Contributing	\$25.00
Supporting	\$5.00	Affiliated Club	\$2.00
Life—\$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)			

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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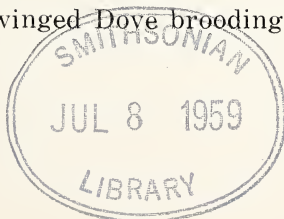
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JUNE, 1959

Number 2



Female Eastern White-winged Dove brooding Young



THE CHAT

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The Chat

FIRE ANT CONTROL

The subjoined letter to the Secretary of Agriculture was written on behalf of the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia by its President, Mr. Irston R. Barnes. It is reprinted here with his permission. It is disturbing to realize, in this day when the forces of law and order need all the respect they can command, that the statements of government departments are not wholly trustworthy. See also the review of an article by Allen in this issue. We hope our readers will make their views on this whole program known to members of Congress and to their state legislators.—
Editor.

March 23, 1959

The Honorable Ezra Taft Benson
Secretary of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Secretary Benson:

Representative members and officers of this Society attended the preview of the film *FIRE ANT ON TRIAL* shown in the Agriculture Department Auditorium March 16th. After viewing the film, it is our considered opinion that it is a misleading presentation—misleading both by direct statement and through significant omission. It is flagrant propaganda in support of a program that has been widely challenged as ill-conceived, irresponsible, and dangerous. We consider its release by the Department not only highly improper but contrary to the public interest.

The film wrongly creates the impression that where proper precautions are taken, wildlife is unharmed by the control program. It also states, on very dubious grounds, that the program is being carried out with the co-operation of wildlife conservation agencies. It ignores the fact that the broadcasting of highly poisonous chemicals over many thousands of acres pose a threat to human health through contamination of water, milk, food crops, and even by direct contact. On the basis of these three points we request that the fire-ant film be withheld from distribution.

1. *Destruction of wildlife:* The claim that there is no hazard to wildlife is completely without foundation. Wildlife cannot be protected from chemicals that are highly toxic as contact poisons, as contaminants of food and water supplies, and as cumulative poisons in earthworms and probably other foods of wildlife. The scenes in the film showing measures for protecting livestock—such as driving cattle out of pastures to be treated, overturning feeding boxes and covering watering troughs—reveal that extremely poisonous substances are being applied, but such precautions are obviously inapplicable for the protection of wildlife. The many and incontrovertible reports of heavy losses among all forms of wildlife as a result of the program prove that these resources are *not* being protected. These reports, based on the field work of well-trained wildlife technicians, have been widely distributed and certainly have been made available to you. I shall remind you, however, that these reports have been made independently by many agencies, including the National Audubon Society, the Conservation Foundation, the National Wildlife Federation, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the Alabama Conservation Department, the

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Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, the Alabama Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, the Texas Game and Fish Commission, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, and the Louisiana State University. These reports almost uniformly revealed high initial kill of wildlife including mammals, birds, reptiles, and fish. The future effects of sub-lethal doses on reproduction and length of life are yet to be determined but research under controlled conditions indicates they will be serious.

2. *"Cooperation" of wildlife agencies:* The statement that your program has the support of wildlife conservation agencies is almost incredible in view of the continuing protests of these agencies, both public and private. As soon as the program was announced, in the fall of 1957, you were urged by such representative groups as the National Audubon Society and the National Wildlife Federation to suspend control operations until thorough research should be made into the degree of control needed, the possibility of alternatives to toxic chemical control, and the effect of this program on all life within its range. As your Department continued the program in the face of all protests, and as reports of actual damage and destruction were assembled, opposition to the program increased until it now includes practically every national conservation organization as well as those in the states affected. The true situation is one of growing alarm and opposition; certainly not of "cooperation" as claimed.

3. *Hazards to human health:* On this subject the film is significantly silent. While exaggerating the toxic nature of the sting of the fire ant, the script fails to mention the high toxicity of the poisons that are now being scattered over large areas of the southern states by airplane. The poisons dieldrin and heptachlor are recognized, beyond possibility of denial, as extremely toxic even in minute traces. Both are absorbed through the skin as well as through other portals. Both are stored in the human body. Both are toxic to the human nervous system and to the liver, and almost certainly interfere with many of the basic processes of the body. Although, according to Dr. Wayland Hayes of the Public Health Service, "In certain programs, 10-20 per cent of the spraymen applying dieldrin for the control of disease vectors have been poisoned. Half or more of the reported cases were characterized by epileptiform convulsions", the most dangerous effect is not such acute toxicity, but cumulative poisoning. This may not be revealed in its full and possibly disastrous impact for a number of years.

Meanwhile, however, the Food and Drug Administration expresses concern over the contamination of food crops and dairy products, and the Public Health Service over the contamination of water supplies through run-off from treated watersheds. In the opinion of thoughtful and informed people, the threat of the fire ant, so greatly stressed in your film, is insignificant compared with the serious and long-lasting damage inflicted by your efforts to control it.

You have been widely charged with irresponsibility in regard to your control program, Mr. Secretary. We urge you not to add substance to this charge by releasing this ill-conceived propaganda film.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Irston R. Barnes

Irston R. Barnes, President

THE INCIDENCE OF DUCKS AND GEESE IN THE ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA AREA DURING FALL, WINTER, AND SPRING MIGRATION

NORMAN L. ANDERSON

During the past ten years the author has had occasion to make observations on migratory water-fowl in the Asheville, North Carolina area and has made field notes on their occurrence here.

Much of the data here is compared with that of the fine ornithologist, Thomas D. Burleigh, who made many very accurate observations* here in the 1930's and with whom the present author was in communication about 1950.

It is of interest to note the influence that many new water impoundments have had on migratory water fowl in this area. Hunting pressure has of course depleted the ranks of many of these birds rather drastically in the past twenty years. On the other hand, the ready access to many fresh water power lakes has attracted many birds which formerly migrated by another route and did not pause in the area for rest or for temporary domicile.

The common *Mallard* I have noted here from October 17, 1951, in Transylvania County through the winter until February 26, 1956. Also we observed mallards at Cashiers on March 6, 1956, and on April 1, 1958, in Buncombe County.

The *Black Duck* is quite common in this area and I have seen it on several occasions from October 16, 1951, at Cashiers, until February 8th in Transylvania County. I note that Burleigh observed it from October 3rd to March 16th.

The *Gadwall* is rare in this area. Burleigh noted it from December 31st on the French Broad River to October, and March 24th in the Buncombe County area. I have not seen or heard of any here during the past ten years.

The *Baldpate* or *American Widgeon* is very common here, according to Burleigh, as a spring migrant and I have seen them here frequently in the spring. For example, March 18, 1954, at Highlands, March 15, 1956, in Transylvania County, March 16th in the Anderson Ponds south of Asheville. On April 4, 1957, some thirty were seen at Lake Tahoma. And on April 17, 1958, several were noted at Lake James. They were seen until April 29, 1931, by Burleigh in this area.

Pintail. The Pintail is rare in this area and I have not seen any. Burleigh noted, as he quoted, "some," but the date was not given.

The *Green-winged Teal* also is rare in this area. James Barnard noted several on the French Broad River in 1945 and I saw four at Highlands on October 4, 1950, but there was no positive identification since they were seen at a slight distance and I was not absolutely sure they were not Blue-winged Teal. Burleigh makes no note of the Green-winged Teal in this area in "Birds of North Carolina."

Blue-winged Teal are very common in this area. We have noted several in the Asheville and Highlands area. On September 17 to 23, 1954, many were noted at the Anderson and Arnstein Ponds near Arden. On March 6, 1956, one was noted at the above area. In 1957 on March 6, one was noted

* BIRDS OF NORTH CAROLINA: Pearson, Brimley & Brimley, 1942.

on the Anderson Pond. On April 4, 1957, several were seen at Lake Tahoma. And on April 25, 1958, six appeared at Lake Tahoma. Burleigh regarded them as common during migration and certainly our observations bear this out. They are also so early in the fall that they appear but rarely during the hunting season.

Cinnamon Teal. The Cinnamon Teal is very rare of course, and we have not seen any. The only report is that of Jim Barnard who apparently saw some on the French Broad in 1942. This is not necessarily authentic since they have been reported only once in North Carolina at Mattamuskeet, but Mr. Barnard assures me that such was the case.

The *Wood Duck* is very common in the area, and some of course spend the whole season here, although the majority of them are migrants. I have noted them from August to cold weather at Christmas in Transylvania County, and on October 20, 1956, I counted eighty-five at the Anderson Pond apparently resting during migration. Similar numbers have been counted at the Hawkins Pond in the fall of 1955. Burleigh regards them as fall migrants in the area but does not comment on other dates and numbers.

The *Shoveler* is also very rare in this area. Burleigh regards it as present only in the spring migration in the Asheville area on March 22nd and April 1st. Huntsinger, a local game warden, tells of seeing some in 1952.

The *Redhead* is of medium occurrence here. On December 26, 1952, I saw four at Lake Tahoma. In 1939, Barnard noted several on the French Broad. Burleigh regards them as rare spring and summer migrants.

The *Ring-necked Duck* is very common in the area and we have noted them on October 13, 1957, at the Anderson Pond, and on February 14, 1957, at the Arnstein Pond. On March 7, 1956, five were noted at Highlands, and on April 4, 1957, nine were located at Lake Tahoma. They associated in this instance with the Lesser Scaup. R. B. Wallace reported them as plentiful in the Asheville area in November and December of 1935.

The *Canvasback* is quite rare as a migrant in this area. In 1938, Barnard noted them on the French Broad River, and in November, 1957, Walker Blanton noted two on Lake Tahoma. Burleigh does not report them in this area in "Birds of North Carolina."

The *Greater Scaup* is common in this area. We have noted them from October to April in Buncombe County, Transylvania County, etc. I have noted large numbers at Reasonover Lake in Transylvania County on February 18, 1955. I counted thirty-two on Beaver Lake in Asheville on March 4, 1957, and twenty-five on April 25, 1958, at Lake Tahoma. Neither the Greater nor Lesser Scaup are reported in "Birds of North Carolina" as occurring in this area.

The *Lesser Scaup* is also fairly common and is seen frequently in association with Ring-necked Ducks. On February 14, 1957, I counted three at the Arnstein Pond, and there may have been several associated with the Greater Scaup that we noted in the previous paragraph.

The *American Goldeneye* is very rare in this area but its occurrence is well proven. In 1940, James Barnard noted them at McDonald Creek and on the French Broad. In 1949, Claude Jarrett, on the French Broad River, killed a female American Goldeneye which was mounted and identified by myself.

The *Bufflehead* is very common in this area but is a later winter migrant.

In November, 1955, I noted them at the Arnstein Pond and on December 1 in Transylvania County. Also on December 31, there were fifteen noted at Lake Tahoma. On December 19, 1956, two were noted on the Anderson Pond. On April 4, 1957, there were thirty noted on Lake Tahoma, and on April 1, 1958, several were seen in Black Mountain. These associate with Ruddy Ducks. Miss Huger noted them in November, 1912, at Highlands and Burleigh noted them as late as April 8, 1930.

The *Ruddy Duck* is fairly common in the area. I noted them at the Arnstein Pond at Arden on December 19, 1956. Burleigh noted them in Asheville on October 24 and April 2.

Canada Geese are very common migrants and spend considerable time here in the fall as long as the weather does not get too bad, and if they are not hunted out. I noted several in Transylvania County on October 28, 1955, and three separate groups of 20, 18, and four on October 22, 23, and 24, 1956, south of Asheville in the Fletcher area. On October 10 1957, they were seen at the Asheville-Hendersonville Airport trying to land on a wet runway. On October 15, they were noted flying over a large farm south of Arden. On October 27, a large flock flew over Bryson City apparently confused by fog. They had apparently been resting on Fontana Lake prior to this time. Burleigh noted the species in Asheville on April 25 and October 20, 1932.

Burleigh reports an occasional Snow Goose on the French Broad River. Huntsinger reported a pair in December of 1957 on the French Broad River.

In passing, it might be noted that the Pied-Bill Grebe, Common Loon, and Hooded Merganser are very common in this area.

An analysis of these figures indicates that most of the dipper ducks are present in the area and the diver ducks to some extent, but are not as common. It is my feeling that the power lakes in this area, such as Fontana, Chatuge, Hiawassee, Lake James, and Nantahala, as well as the small farm ponds used for raising fish and for pleasure, will make a considerable difference in drawing ducks, and perhaps the larger lakes will bring in more diving ducks. On the other hand, hunting pressure is heavy and more protection is needed under certain conditions.

I should like to thank the following for assistance in compiling these notes: Claude Jarrett, James Barnard, Mrs. Rudolph Arnstein, Mrs. W. H. Anderson, R. R. Williams, Jr., and other friends.

BANDING OF COLONIAL BIRDS—1958

HARRY T. DAVIS

A party consisting of CBC members, John Thompson and Bill Joyner (Rocky Mount, N. C.), John Grey (Williamsburg, Va.), Bob Wolff (Greenville, N. C.) and the writer have the following to report for the months of July and August.

July 3rd—1 adult Gull-billed Tern, 9 Common Terns (4 adults), 20 Black Skimmers (2 adults). These were young birds near Cape Lookout, except where adults are noted. It is of note that one of the adult nesting skimmers was banded (young) at Stone Harbor, Cape May Co., N. J., by C. Brooke Worth on July 17, 1955. A Common Tern, trapped on the nest, was banded at the same Cape Lookout site on July 11, 1955.

July 4th—The group went to the mixed heron colony, on Starvation

Island, Newport River, north of the causeway between Beaufort and Morehead City. Here young birds were banded as follows: 25 American Egrets, 8 Little Blue Herons, 10 Snowy Egrets, 12 Louisiana Herons, and 1 Glossy Ibis.

July 5th—Driving to Cedar Island and taking a boat there we covered some 15 miles to Ocracoke Inlet. Most conspicuous on Shell Castle Island was a colony of Brown Pelicans. There were also Royal Terns, Laughing Gulls and Common Terns on other parts of the Island.

We banded young birds as follows: 72 Brown Pelicans, 77 Royal Terns and 8 Common Terns, 25 Royal Terns, and 36 Laughing Gulls.

On the return trip a stop at Wainwright Island netted 12 Common Terns and 44 Black Skimmers.

On July 22nd, Bob Wolff again visited Shell Castle Island and banded 28 Brown Pelicans and 2 Royal Terns.

On August 6th, John Thompson again visited Cape Lookout Shoals and banded 10 Black Skimmers and 2 Common Terns.

Mr. Wolff banded 6 young Brown Pelicans in 1957, at Shell Castle Island and had the very high percentage of three returns on them. One of the 1958 young was found within weeks because he came aboard a tanker some 800 miles east of Cape Fear or 400 miles southeast of where banded.

We also know that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is banding large numbers of migratory waterfowl. In 1958 the following were banded in Pamlico River and Core Sound: 3417 Lesser Scaup, 259 Canvasback, 105 Ring-neck, 13 Greater Scaup, 18 Red Head, 1 Coot, and 1 Ruddy.

No matter how many birds may be banded only returns provide information, so "Legs! Look, if it's a bird, dead or alive."

Operation Recovery has been underway for intensive study of migrating birds each autumn for some three years now. The east coast area south of Virginia has contributed little to this thus far. The effort is to catch and band birds at consecutive points as they move southward and to secure certain data. Mist nets are generally used to capture the birds. John Thompson, Bill Joyner and the writer tried this at Duck, on the Currituck County Beach, on September 21st and 22nd, 1957. Instead of the normal scores of birds we banded only 25 birds of 12 species. The same banders, and Professor Merle Showalter, made the effort again on October 4 and 5, 1958. The place chosen was on Core Sound near Atlantic Beach. The meagre netting was 2 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 1 Fish Crow, 4 Starlings, 1 Boat-tailed Grackle and 1 Savannah Sparrow.

FUNCTIONS OF BIRD BANDING

CHARLES H. BLAKE

As a matter of general definition, bird banding includes not only the application of individually numbered bands to the legs of birds but as well, individually numbered wing clips, the latter being very rarely used in this country. In this way we distinguish bird banding from other sorts of marking such as the dyeing of feathers or imping with colored feathers. Bird banding, then, enables us to know the banded bird as an individual and hence to trace its movements and changes of plumage or other characters.

Historically, bird banding was devised for migration studies. It was

started first by Christian Mortensen in Denmark in 1899. He began his work with Starlings, but the small number of recoveries led him very soon to turn to storks and similar large birds to secure adequate data. In this country the procedure was independently proposed in 1901 by Leon J. Cole, and the first actual banding (Black-crowned Night Herons) seems to have been done in 1902 by Paul Bartsch, who is still living and still takes an interest in birds.

The fact that Mortensen felt compelled to abandon Starlings in favor of larger birds emphasizes the small proportion of recoveries of song birds and similar sized birds away from the banding point. Evidently, then, it is necessary to band relatively enormous numbers over a considerable period of years to accumulate adequate data. Such has been done in both North America and Europe, but usually no one bander learns very much about movements from his own individual work. One notable exception is the Austin Station on Cape Cod which has specialized on terns of which they have banded more than a third of a million in some 30 years. Work on this scale is beyond the power of most volunteer banders.

There are other exceptions under special conditions. In England the European Robin is rather frequently recovered. This probably is on account of the relatively highly cultivated state of England, the great interest in that particular bird, and its tendency in winter, at least, to come to door yards for food.

In the United States and Canada we have had a somewhat similar experience with the Evening Grosbeak, in part because it comes to feeding stations and traps readily, and undoubtedly also because a relatively large fraction of the population is banded. In 1956 over 18,000 were banded, ranking it ninth among all banded species. It is one of the few species in which individuals have been taken at two, or in one case three, points other than the point of banding.

Parks (1957, *Bird-Banding* 28:98) banded this latter bird at Hartford, Connecticut, November, 1949. In 1954 and 1955 it was trapped at Conway, Massachusetts; Northampton, Massachusetts; and Montoursville, Pennsylvania.

Bird banding also has official functions. It is one means of obtaining information necessary for the regulation of the hunting of game birds and especially of migratory game, such as waterfowl. Here, where considerable numbers of banded individuals are taken, and at least a fraction reported to the Fish and Wildlife Service, we have one means of assessing the size of existing populations and, even more important, a source of information about the origin of the birds killed at particular places. Further, it serves to tell us whether hunting pressure is disproportionately heavy upon birds of particular ages. The evidence, in general, is that it bears too heavily on birds of the year among waterfowl.

Before we go on to certain other functions, it might be of interest to show a few examples of extremes. A by no means exhaustive look at the literature discloses six birds known to have lived more than 25 years in the wild after banding: three gulls, two terns, and an Oyster-catcher. All of these are relatively large colonial-nesting birds with a very strong tendency to return year after year not only to the breeding colony but probably to

almost the exact nest site. The all-time record seems to be held by a Danish Herring Gull recovered a few days more than 28 years after its original banding. That no older bird has been recovered may be mainly because banding has been carried on for less than 60 years; especially as a Herring Gull has lived 49 years in captivity.

It is well known that the Arctic Tern breeding in the New World crosses the North Atlantic on its fall migration and proceeds down the eastern coast of the Atlantic into the Southern Hemisphere. Two of the longest movements on record pertain to this species. In 1928 my friend, Oliver L. Austin, Jr., banded a chick in the Labrador which was found in Natal, southeast Africa 90 days later. Nominally this bird flew 9900 miles at a rate of 110 miles a day. However, another chick banded in Greenland in 1951 reached Natal in 113 days, 11,200 miles away. This is 99 miles a day. Since these birds were not able to fly when banded, I would estimate their real speed to be excess of 130 miles a day. Such speeds and distances are probably by no means the limit for birds continually at sea. It has been supposed, with a good deal of reason, that albatrosses and other tube-nosed birds in the southern oceans may move continually around the world while off their breeding grounds; but as far as I know, no greater net distances have been recorded. Shore birds, on the other hand, may move considerably more rapidly. In one case a Dunlin (Red-backed Sandpiper) banded in Sweden was killed next day in Denmark 210 miles away. But even better, a Lesser Yellowlegs banded by the Austins on Cape Cod in 1935 was shot in Martinique six days later, which means at least 316 miles a day.

As another and not often recognized function of bird banding, we may cite some cases in which the identification of unusual vagrants has depended entirely upon the fact that they were banded at a point where the true identification could be determined. For example, a Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons sinensis*) banded in Java in March, 1949 was found on the Gold Coast in December, 1952, the first record of the subspecies for Africa. It should be noted that this bird had not only crossed the whole length of the Indian Ocean but had rounded Good Hope and gone half way up the west coast.

A couple of years ago I was able to report, from recoveries of banded birds, the first occurrences in Jamaica of the Caspian Tern and the Ring-billed Gull.

We may turn now to a variety of scientific purposes for which bird banding is essential. These fall into two categories: studies of changes in the individual bird or in groups or local populations, and on the other hand studies which depend mainly upon being able to handle living birds.

In the first category are investigations of plumage changes, the time when the bird attains what we consider to be adult plumage, the character of the successive molts as well as their timing, changes in the length of the wing and even of the feathers in general, detection of plumage changes in females which cause them to resemble males. Another matter which may be investigated under this head is changes of weight, particularly significant in migratory birds. In the case of groups, banding allows us to determine the age structure; the permanence of association of the in-

(Continued on p. 43)



BACKYARD BIRDING

How long does it take a Cardinal to build a nest? How long does the female work a day, and at what hours? Why does a Brown Thrasher *not* build in evergreen bushes? Have you ever seen paper in a Brown Thrasher's nest? I hadn't, until this March 20, when I watched our female Thrasher struggle to get a paper napkin into her nest in a large Syringa bush. How do various species that live in our yards defend their nests? Please watch the birds in your yards carefully this summer, and take accurate notes on *what* you see and the *number* of birds you see, and send this information in to this department. We would like to have many reports about different birds such as the following, sent in by Nicky Lovin.

(..... A. R. FAVER, *Dept. Editor*)

It was my pleasure to see, on January 28, 1959, a pair of Mockingbirds (*Mimus p. polyglottos*) doing their courtship dance. This took place in the front yard of a home only a block from the heart of Rockingham. The two birds did not seem to be abashed by my watching them. In fact, they disregarded the reality that I was present.

The dance was a chaos of running, hopping and flying. It started with the birds facing each other. One of them would begin hopping from side to side of the other. After doing this four or five times, the other bird . . . probably the female . . . did the same performance. When she finished, the two birds touched bills. Often the two hopped from side to side in unison.

After the second performance, the male flew to a low branch of an oak tree. He then began lifting his wings to a height just above his head. Slowly he would let them fall into place, exhibiting the pure white wing patches. Upon seeing this, the female joined her mate in the oak. After a while, the courtship was resumed with the two birds chasing each other.

The outstanding features of the dance was the touching of bills, which I had never seen before.

—NICKY LOVIN, *Watson Heights,*
Rockingham, North Carolina

Charlotte, North Carolina, December 30, 1958, Morning, probably about 10 o'clock.

As I was walking toward home (in a built-up residential area), I noticed two birds flying rather high. As they circled and turned, I began to realize that they were hawks. At times they would dive at each other as if chasing one another. Finally the light was just right for me to see the rufous color on the tail of one of the birds. That and the pointed falcon-like wings clinched identification as a Sparrow Hawk. The other hawk was approximately the same size but different in contour and color. It had short rounded wings and a rather long slim tail with a dark band near the tip; the whole underside was light in color. I felt that it was an accipiter and, because of the small size, concluded that it must be a Sharp-shinned Hawk.

This bird apparently was successful in driving the Sparrow Hawk away. At least the falcon left first, and then the accipiter receded into the distance.

This cavorting continued long enough for me to reach home, go in for binoculars, come back outdoors, and see them well enough to give the above description. (I was about two or three houses down the street when I first noticed the birds.)

You may be interested in this contribution to your notes on the occurrence of albinism in birds.

On Sunday, March 29, 1959, it was our privilege to observe an albino Robin in Salisbury, North Carolina. The local newspaper had carried an account, with photograph, of this bird, giving name and address of the man in whose yard it was seen. Always hopeful, we drove to this place, and to our utter surprise the bird was there. Although to the naked eye it appeared white all over, it was not complete albino, there being some dark feathers in the right side of the tail and in the wing primaries. Also there was a suggestion of a rusty color on the flanks. Feet and bill were yellow, and eyes dark. In behavior the bird was typically robin-like, remaining largely on the ground, running fast a short distance, then stopping to ferret out a worm or other food.

We observed this bird at fairly close range—approximately 100-125 feet—with 7 x 35 binoculars.—MRS. JOSEPH R. NORWOOD, 1329 Greenwood Avenue, Charlotte 5, N. C. April 6, 1959.

Roadblock, an Experiment.—For one reason or another, birds fly into picture windows. What they see is a matter of conjecture. Maybe it's the open space, maybe a reflection, maybe both, but it seems safe to say that what they don't see is the glass. In any event, collisions are rather commonplace, particularly where the picture window closely overlooks a feeding station. This is a natural setting where the window is built to look out of and the owner wants to watch birds. Unwittingly, this arrangement also makes a very good trap. The efficiency of the trap is increased manifold if a tree or high shrub stands over the feeder, or bath. Some of my victims apparently are only stunned and recover sufficiently to fly after a few minutes retention in a shoebox. Others qualify for an autopsy. There is always something to be learned from a dead bird and an opportunity is lost when one is discarded without study.

Several ideas have been suggested or tried, to reduce picture window casualties. It seems that the successful ones require offset screening of one sort or another. They provide a buffer to soften the impact of a collision

“Owl eyes” pasted on
window of the Chamberlain
home save birds from
injury.



rather than prevent one. They are unsightly and they detract from the usefulness of the window.

The accompanying photograph shows a scheme of mine that I am experimenting with. The glass measures approximately 3 by 4 feet and when viewed from near the ground it beautifully mirrors the tops of the opposite trees and sky. A somewhat oversized pair of owl eyes are attached by scotch tape to the inside of the glass. Two discs of brilliant yellow cardboard, about two inches across, with one inch black cardboard discs glued at the centers, form the eyes. I put them up on January 10, 1959 and to date, April 15, there have been no known hits. Before the eyes were placed there were numerous collisions by Chickadees, Titmice, and Pine Warblers, and occasionally, unidentified feathers testified to other strikes. Most were knocked out and brought into the house for protection. Others were not so lucky. The largest of the known killed at my window was a Mourning Dove. Since the eyes have been in place I have seen two Pine Warblers and a Carolina Chickadee fly headlong toward the window and bank abruptly to avoid hitting it. Of course, there is no proof that there is any association of the spots with an owl. It is possible that only an obstruction is registered and that any equally conspicuous object of any form would serve as well. Also, one picture window and a few months are not nearly enough to prove anything, and because of this I am offering the idea now with the thought that others might care to try it and add their findings to mine. In that way, significant data can be accumulated in a comparatively short time. Until the idea is shown to be effective on a larger scale, there would be little point in trying it at windows that have no history of hits.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, Rt. 1, Box 30, Matthews, N. C.

CBC Chapel Hill Meeting

Too many members are missing out on the splendid weekend gatherings held by CBC. The Chapel Hill field trip (combined with the usually separate business meeting), May 8-10, was all that a birder of any rank or status would have thoroughly enjoyed.

The Chapel Hill Bird Club was host and together with Joe Norwood, FTC, a fine program had been planned. After briefing Friday night on the next day's field trips by Adelaide Walters and various reports by officers and committees of CBC, Wallace D. Patterson of the Chapel Hill Bird Club, showed remarkably good movies of hosts of birds that come to his feeding station in a small garden in town.

Field trips Saturday were led by Adelaide Walters, Matt Thompson and Maurice Barnhill, to several totally different areas, all rich in bird life. 22 species of warblers were identified, among them the Tennessee, Worm-eating, Cape May; six sparrows, the Swainson's, Gray-cheeked and Wood Thrushes, both Water-thrushes (Louisiana nesting); four flycatchers and an immature Horned Lark (rare record for the Chapel Hill area). Roll call for all species 107.

Saturday evening the Nominating Committee presented a slate of the incumbent officers of CBC for 1959-60, and it was unanimously accepted by vote of members present. Other business having been dealt with, Dr. Charles Blake gave a very interesting illustrated lecture on banding and methods of trapping using both mist nets and many kinds of wire traps. This information was a valuable forerunner to watching trapping and banding in action on Sunday.

John Trott came down from Alexandria, Va., to show slides of birds of Stanly County, N. C. (as well as a few taken at Gaddy's Goose Pond at Ansonville, N. C.); outstanding among the Stanly Co. shots, all in AOU order, were many of parent birds feeding young in the nest. A fine collection that John adds to whenever he can find the briefest opportunity.

Sunday at "Chatwood", century-old restored home of Dr. & Mrs. Charles Blake, was a red-letter day for those who had never examined traps, and watched birds carefully extricated from mist nets and banded, data duly recorded, and the banded birds set free.

Hearty thanks to all who had a hand in making this meeting an especially fine one.—KCS



GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. B. Chamberlain, Robert A. Norris, Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

Tropic-bird, a Sight Record and a Capture.—I have been advised to write you concerning a bird seen from a ship twenty miles south of Cape Hatteras, thirty miles from shore, on July 25, 1958—a positively identified White-tailed Tropic-bird (formerly Yellowbilled Tropic-bird). Sorry I did not write sooner but did not realize it might be unusual off the Carolina coast.—JOHN HARTE, *Harvard College, Leverett H-21, Cambridge, Mass., Jan. 17, 1959.*

On the morning of October 16, 1954, the day after Hurricane Hazel struck our coast, a White-tailed Tropic-bird was found in a neighbor's chicken pen in Dillon, Dillon Co., S. C. The wind was reported to have attained a velocity of at least 60 m.p.h. in the vicinity. On the morning of the capture the weather was very calm. The bird lived only a short time. Although there is no question in the identification, the specimen unfortunately was not preserved.—ARCH MCCALLUM, 800, 8th., Ave., Dillon, S. C., Aug. 25 and Dec. 8, 1958. (*South Carolina Bird Life*, 1949, records a lone specimen found alive, 1926—*Dept. Ed.*)

Common Eider, Kittiwakes, Razorbill at Hatteras.—For a number of years I have been a member of a group visiting Carolina's Outer Banks at least four times each year. All of us are affiliated with V.S.O. (and some with C.B.C.) and the sole purpose of our trip is birds. On our trip there last week, our good fortune exceeded our wildest dreams.

At Cape Hatteras, Dare Co., N. C., between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 1, 1959, on the beach near the point where the coast turns sharply toward the west, we observed the following extremely rare birds:

An immature Razorbill. This bird was on the sand, so badly oiled that flight was impossible. It managed to evade us, however, and get back into the water.

A short distance off shore we watched for ten minutes or more, through binoculars and 30x Balscopes, an immature male **Common Eider**. This bird was also oiled and apparently it could not fly.

Several hundred yards up the beach, on the sand, were three **Black-legged Kittiwakes**, two were immature and the other an adult. The immature birds were oiled but all could fly. They were quite "tame" and at times we were not more than twenty feet from them.

Such a variety of northern birds at one time at the same place was a new experience for us and we feel that it may be of interest to readers of *The Chat*. Our party at Hatteras included C. C. Garvin, Washington, D. C.; C. C. Stierly, Waverly, Va.; P. S. Dulaney, Charlottesville, Va.;

G. M. Cornell, Driver, Va.; Frank Richardson, Va. Beach, Va., and the writer.—J. E. AMES, JR., *Driver, Va., Feb. 8, 1959.* (Under date of Mar. 2, 1959, Paul W. Sykes Jr., of Norfolk, Va., submitted a detailed account of an observation he and H. A. Hespenheide made of four immature Kittiwakes at Hatteras, February 14. Neither was aware of the observations of the Ames party two weeks earlier. Mr. Sykes' report follows, in part: "The four birds were carefully studied, off and on, for one and one-half hours. One was observed at 30 feet for nearly one-half hour, as it sat on the beach. The Kittiwakes were in the company of four other species of gulls but when on the beach they sat apart from the other gulls. On one occasion there was an excellent comparison with a Bonaparte's Gull when one flew side by side with it.—In flight, the top side of each wing showed the dark diagonal band. The tail was slightly forked with a half inch black band right at the tip. A dark band extended from the sides of the head around the back of the neck, where it was very faint. The bill was black and the feet were dark but not totally black." As far as we know, these are the sole 'on shore' records of the Kittiwake for North Carolina. For two off-shore records, see *The Chat*, IV:49, 1940, Richard Pough; and 17:43, 1953, Phillips Street.—*Dept. Ed.*)

Rough-legged Hawk in the North Carolina Piedmont.—During the late afternoon of January 3, 1959, the writers observed a Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) near Lake Wheeler, 10 miles south of Raleigh, Wake County, N. C.

This bird flew low directly overhead in full sunlight. It was a full-plumaged adult in the dark phase, and the contrasting white primaries and secondaries were easily seen. The long wings and tail and the eagle-like flight immediately distinguished it from a melanistic red-tailed hawk.

On March 7, Funderburg, with Andrew Weber and George Hurst, saw what was believed to be the same bird at a location approximately two miles from where the first observation took place. Subsequent trips to the area were fruitless.

This hawk is a rare straggler in North Carolina. It has been recorded in winter from Hyde and New Hanover Counties on the coast and as a fall transient in the mountains. It has not heretofore been recorded from the Piedmont region.—JOHN B. FUNDERBURG and ROBERT F. SOOTS, *N. C. State College, Raleigh, April 3, 1599.* (There is a questioned record in the Rocky Mount Christmas Count of 1941, recorded in *The Chat*, VI:15. The reference to a melanistic red-tailed hawk is assumed to indicate the Western (*B. j. calurus*) or the Harlan's Hawk (*B. harlani*), since no melanistic phase of the Eastern Red-tail has been described, as far as we know.—*Dept. Ed.*).

Golden Eagles.—Reports of Golden Eagles in the Carolinas come to us every year or so, but seldom are they as colorful and complete as the following two covering recent observations in North Carolina:

"--- occurred about noon, Saturday, Oct. 25 (1958), when my three boys and I had reached the top of Hanging Rock (Wilkes Co., N. C.) and had started to eat our peanut butter sandwiches. An immature Golden Eagle came from the northeast along the northerly side of the ridge, soaring very slowly with occasional partial turns and slight banks, and went southwest across the gap between Hanging Rock and Moore's Knob on out of sight along the southerly side of the ridge.

"The eagle was only slightly higher than we were and moved slowly and steadily in the light breeze. As it came up to us it banked slightly, showing the conspicuous light windows on the under side of the wing and turned showing the light tail with the dark band at the end. It came on steadily, with wings horizontal, and passed so close that we could easily see the heavy head and bill and its huge size. It passed slowly enough for us to hand the glasses around and it paid no attention to our shouting and jumping about. We had it in view for about three quarters of a mile, and, although it seemed right on us, it probably was about 100 yards away at the closest point," That came from JAMES MATTOCKS of *High Point, N. C.*

The other report is from ROYSTON RUDOLPH, Management Biologist at the National Wildlife Refuge at Lake Mattamuskeet: "While inspecting the Great Marsh area along the Knott Island Causeway on Oct. 17 (1958), I had a very good look at an immature Golden Eagle. I was with Joe Coggin, a biologist with the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries. It was the first time that Coggin had seen one while I had seen one in Louisiana. Our attention was first attracted by a Great Blue Heron that narrowly missed some power lines while engaged in a fancy (if awkward) display of evasive flying. The eagle was seen a split-second later apparently pulling out of a dive, just above and behind the heron. It quickly climbed to an altitude of about 100 yards, then circled overhead, giving us a very good look at the white tail with its sharply defined terminal band. The chunkier outline of this bird, as compared with that of the Bald Eagle, was very noticeable. As the eagle flew south over the marsh, a group of about 25 ducks flushed before it and quickly vacated the area, flying low and at right angles to the eagle's line of sight.—It is interesting to note that my one previous experience with the Golden Eagle involved a similar incident at Sabine Refuge in Louisiana—ducks flushing before a low flying eagle, as though recognizing it as a potential predator. At both Sabine and Mattamuskeet I have many times seen Bald Eagles flying near ducks without flushing them or even disturbing them. These observations indicate that ducks differentiate between the two eagles, and as the Golden Eagle is so rare on the wintering areas, the ducks must know it from the nesting grounds."

A Spring Observation of the American Golden Plover.—On April 1, 1959, Mrs. Dot Earle found and identified an American Golden Plover feeding on the mud flats along Wrightsville causeway (Wilmington, N. C.). She called and a group including Mary Baker, Mary Ulrich, John Irvine, and Greg Massey gathered with me at the causeway to see the bird. We watched it for about forty minutes on that day. There was a Black-bellied Plover within a few feet for constant comparison—there are a great many of them about. Both birds flew short distances, the Black-belly showed the black axillars while the under wing of the Golden Plover was dusky.

With the Golden Plover about forty yards away, John Irvine, with a 20x scope, called off the following description to me: Smaller than the Black-belly; entire body more streamlined; slenderer neck; legs dark slate with bluish cast; bill more slender. Head decidedly brown on top; forehead white; prominent white line over eye, starting in front of eye, going back over cheek and down toward the back. Back decidedly brown with light edging to the feathers. Breast marked with faint streakings in Pectoral Sandpiper fashion; additional faint streakings underneath shoulder and halfway down on the flanks plus additional lines down median line of breast. Under-tail coverts darkish around line dividing them from the body. Rump dark; tail very dark brown.

On April 2, at 7:00 a.m., Irvine took Cecil Appleberry and me back to see the bird again. There were mud flats on both sides of the causeway and as Irvine searched the left side, I searched the right. We each discovered a Golden Plover, at the same time. We examined both in turn very carefully. At all times there were Black-bellied Plovers close by for comparison. They were gray whereas the Golden Plovers were decidedly more brown and in certain light had a golden brown cast. Both days were overcast with just enough light to show every shading of color on the birds.

We had been having winds from the south at 15-25 m.p.h., and had been warned that a storm was coming up from Texas. The edge of it hit us at about 6:00 p.m., on the 2nd.—EDNA LANIER APPLEBERRY, 5 *Lake Forest Parkway, Wilmington, N. C., April 3, 1959.* (The description seems to indicate immature birds—possibly in their second year. Bent's *Life Histories* (1929) gives spring records at Waterlily and Currituck, N. C. without details. Neither these nor any other spring records appear in *North Carolina Birds*, 1942.—Dept. Ed.).

Common Snipe at Sea.—A Common (Wilson's) Snipe was picked up dead on the deck of the USS Greenwood, 40 miles at sea, SE by E of Charleston Light and inbound, Oct. 19, 1958. The bird had evidently flown aboard during the night when the ship was steaming off the coast and at no time closer than 40 miles to shore. A moderate gale seemed to be brewing at the time. Wind was from the Northeast, estimated at 25 to 30 knots; the barometer falling and the sea rough.—ARTHUR M. WILCOX, *Charleston, S. C., Oct. 30, 1958.*

Another White-winged Dove Reported on Pea Island.—On Sunday, Nov. 9, 1958, my wife and I saw a White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) on Pea Island, Dare Co., N. C. We were going out to the observation platform (south dike of the north pond) between the two fresh water ponds west of the highway and had stopped for some observations when a dove alighted on one of the wires which run across the dike. Its position from us was approximately 30 to 40 feet away and we had 8x30 and 7x35 binoculars and a 30x Balscope. While we were watching it, it flew to the top of the nearby utility pole, five to ten feet from its position on the wire. We had good light with a partially cloudy sky. The overall length was about 12 inches. The white front edge of the wing was quite conspicuous with the bird at rest and we saw that it had a rounded tail like that of a Ground Dove as opposed to the long pointed tail of the Mourning Dove. We noted the black jaw stripe, the two-toned neck coloration, the dark band across the middle of the tail, and, when the bird flew, we saw the white stripe about an inch wide across the full width of the wing. The body was a little chunkier than that of the Mourning Dove but the general coloration was similar to that of our dove. Even though we had never seen this species before, we feel that our identification is correct. It is already on the Accidental List for the Pea Island Refuge.—JOHN R. GATEWOOD, *Winston-Salem, N. C., Nov. 18, 1958.* (At our request, Mr. Chandler Robbins has informed us that the Washington refuge records shows that a single White-winged Dove was seen on the Pea Island refuge on June 23, 1943 by Sam Walker, Refuge Manager at that time.—*Dept. Ed.*.)

Great Horned Owl Nest at Wilmington.—On Feb. 14, 1959, on a Natural Science Club field trip, Mrs. Dot Earle discovered a Great Horned Owl sitting in an abandoned Osprey nest. Some of the club members checked the nest at least twice a week but could not tell if young were in it. The bird seemed to be sitting higher on March 14 so we suspected that the eggs had hatched. On March 24, we checked it by the light of the full moon hoping to see the parent birds feeding young. There was no adult on the nest and none came while we were there but we could see something white moving in the nest. On March 30th., Harry Latimer and I took Dr. and Mrs. A. D. Shaftesbury down to see the nest. There was no adult on it and we had a clear view of two young owls.—EDNA LANIER APPLEBERRY, *Wilmington, N. C., April 3, 1959.*

A Second Vermilion Flycatcher in South Carolina.—On Sunday, January, 10, 1959, Don Holland and I were driving on one of the dikes of the Savannah River Refuge, in Jasper County, South Carolina, and found a brilliant male Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) ranging along the road, which was but a couple of hundred yards from the Georgia line. We went back and brought Mr. E. O. Mellinger, who also watched the bird for some time. It stayed in the same area until at least March 20, and was seen by numerous persons.

The habitat was quite similar to that of our wintering phoebes, and it could generally be found somewhere within about a mile. If followed it would soon fly around us and go back on its territory.

The first South Carolina specimen was taken on January 5, 1956, and recorded by Wilcox (*Chat*, 20:19). This appears to be the second time the bird has been seen in the state.

The breeding range of the eastern subspecies (*P. r. mexicanus*) is in the Lower Austral zone from south-central Texas into Mexico. It winters in the breeding range and northward and eastward to southern Louisiana,

southern Mississippi and northwestern Florida. There are a few casual records north of the normal range west of the Mississippi. That there is a tendency toward an eastward migration in winter, is further indicated by the increasing number of occurrences in western Florida during recent years; by the two records from the upper Coastal plain in Georgia; and by these South Carolina records.

McAtee, Burleigh, Stoddard and Lowery (Wils. Bull., 56, 153-160) have discussed this phenomenon of eastward migration in the Gulf States, but as fifteen years has elapsed since the publication of their paper, a revision of their table to include recent records would be most interesting.—IVAN R. TOMKINS, *1231 East 50th St., Savannah, Ga., April 3, 1959.*

Comments on Our 1958 Wood Thrush Population.—The following came as a personal letter, dated July 16, 1958. The deductions are extremely interesting and we wonder if they may not apply to other tropical winterers.

"In looking over my Wood Thrush bandings for this season and last, I am willing to venture a line of argument as to why they are so different. Up to this time in 1957 I had handled 16, of which five were young birds; so far this year I have handled 26, of which only two were young. Granting that there may be sampling variations here, still the difference is pretty great and suggests that we had this year a considerable fraction of unemployed birds that were merely wandering about the woods.

"Since the Wood Thrush is a tropical winterer, it is unlikely that it was affected directly by last winter's weather in the Southeast. However, it would not seem unlikely that the weather last winter reduced the insect population considerably; so that, if we follow Siivonen's suggestion, the Wood Thrushes on arrival here may have found themselves on short commons so far as animal food went. This may well have prevented some from breeding at all and perhaps reduced the productivity of those that did breed. This reduction could come in two ways: either fewer eggs were laid or fewer young could be brought to fledging. It would be interesting to know what impression has been gained in the Northeast.

"I commented in an earlier letter on the possibility of the effect of the relative severity of the winter. I take it that in the Northeast, although very snowy, it was perhaps not any colder nor more snowy than other winters within the last 10 years or so. Here it is said to have been the most severe winter in about 40 years, and I would suppose in Florida one would have to look back a good bit further to find its equal—perhaps as much as 75 years. This sort of situation can affect overwintering insects and wintering birds if we assume, as seems likely, that any given population is adapted to conditions not too much more severe than the average, both summer and winter. So far as birds are concerned, this implies what is generally regarded as true, that a given population has not only a defined breeding area but also a defined wintering area." CHARLES H. BLAKE, *Hillsboro, N. C.*

Another Sight Record of a Warbling Vireo in South Carolina.—A protracted drought began last June in the Aiken area and lasted until mid-December. In the latter half of August, I started turning on the sprinkler in the yard in the late afternoon so that it played on some low dogwoods and hickories surrounding the bird bath.

We share a common back fence with Whitehall Plantation, Aiken County, S. C., and that property has never been cut or disturbed, as far as I can find out. It is a virgin pine-hardwood forest characterized by old growth longleaf (one tree 272 years old) with a few shortleaf and loblolly pines and a mixture of hickories and oaks in the overstory and dogwood and sparkleberry and associated species in the understory. On our side of the fence, we have thinned out the area considerably. It is a moist site and apparently a favored habitat for warblers and other species.

The sprinkler on the dogwoods and hickories attracted a number of birds and on September 1, 1958, at about 4 p.m., I noticed a vireo not familiar to me, bathing in the leaves of one of these trees. It appeared quite often during the following week, at times with a Red-eyed Vireo and at times with another of its kind. I was able to study these birds with 8x35 glasses

at approximately 25 feet distance. Close study indicated that they were not Philadelphia Vireos and I concluded that they were Warbling Vireos. Their bathing habits startled me when, on Sept. 7 both of these birds clung to a dogwood limb upside down, fluttering and bathing in that position. This was quite different from the diving tactics of the Red-eyed Vireo bathing in the bird bath at the same time. I did not see them after Sept. 7. While with us they were associated with Black and White Warblers, Parulas, Titmice and many other species present during the period. On Sept. 8, we had a family of Blackburnian Warblers and on the 9th., a male Blue-winged Warbler, many Parulas, Black and White Warblers and an immature Chestnut-sided Warbler.—JOHN B. HATCHER, *Forest Manager, A.E.C., Aiken, S. C. March 19, 1959.* (For a 1956 sight record of the Warbling Vireo in upper S. C., see *The Chat*, 20:82. There is no record of a specimen taken in South Carolin.—*Dept. Ed.*)

Briefs for the Files.

Whistling Swans, 2 at Lennon's Marsh, Lumberton, N. C., Mar. 8, James L. Stephens. Snow Goose, 1 at Savannah Refuge, Nov. to Feb. 6, E. O. Mellinger. Swallow-tailed Kite, 1, first for Mattamuskeet Refuge, May 20, '58, W. G. Cahoon and Robert L. Wolff. Purple Gallinule, 1 immature, at Savannah Refuge, Jan. 23 and 27, Dr. and Mrs. Robert T. Gammell of North Dakota and E. O. Mellinger. Short-billed Dowitcher, 3, in breeding plumage at Bynum's Pond, Nash Co., N. C., July 13, 1958, J. W. E. Joyner. American Avocet, 3 at Bodie Lighthouse, Outer Banks, Feb. 14 and 22, Paul W. Sykes, Jr. of Norfolk, Va.; 1 at Wrightsville Sound, Dec. 3, 1958, Mrs. Dot Earle. Great Black-backed Gull, 1 adult male, Wilmington, Dec. through Mar. 15, Mrs. Dot Earle. Red-cockaded Woodpecker, 3, Aiken, S. C., Christmas count, Dec. 31, 1958, William Post, compiler. Eastern Phoebe, 1, eating lantana berries in yard at Eastover, S. C., Mrs. W. H. Faver. Purple Martin, 2, Rockingham, N. C., Feb. 28, Victor Duehring *vide* Nicky Lovin; 1 at Elkin Mar. 10, Linville Hendren. Brown-headed Nuthatch, 8 at Winston-Salem, Jan. 11, R. H. Witherington; 2, presumably a pair at feeder at Hickory, N. C., for several weeks prior to Mar. 14, J. Weston Clinard. Baltimore Oriole, 1 arrived at Mrs. Boegli's feeders at Wilmington, Dec. 8; 2 by Dec. 17; 3 by Feb. 24; 4 present, Mar. 27, reported by Mrs. Appleberry; male, 1 female, at feeder at Albemarle, N. C., part of Jan. and Feb., Mrs. J. U. Whitlock; 1 at Brookgreen Gardens, Georgetown Co., S. C., Feb. 1, Dr. and Mrs. T. W. Simpson. Warbling Vireo, 3, heard and seen at Wilmington, Mar. 25, Mrs. Appleberry. Golden-winged Warbler, 1 adult female, banded Sept. 14, 1958, Effingham, S. C., E. C. Clyde, Jr. Myrtle Warbler, 3 at Eastover S. C., Oct. 24, 1958, Mrs. W. H. Faver. Black-throated Green Warbler, 2 males banded at Effingham, Oct. 14 and 18, 1958, E. C. Clyde, Jr. Yellow-breasted Chat, 1 at Wilmington, Jan. 24, Harry Latimer *vide* Mrs. Appleberry; 1 in yard at Washington, N. C., Dec. 11, 1958, Mrs. J. L. McLaurin, reported by Mrs. A. W. Bachman. American Redstart, 1 adult female banded at Effingham, Nov. 19, 1958, E. C. Clyde, Jr. Brewer's Blackbird, 2 males, 1 female, studied carefully at Old Town, Edgecombe Co., N. C., Nov. 23, 1958, J. W. E. Joyner. Indigo Bunting, 3 at Wilmington, Feb. 13, Mrs. Mary Urick, *vide* Mrs. Appleberry; 1 male at Wilmington, Mar. 25, Harry Latimer. White-crowned Sparrow, 10 at Winston-Salem, Jan. 11, R. H. Witherington; 2, North Wilkesboro, Mar. 13, Wendell P. Smith.

All dates 1959 unless otherwise noted.

The cover photo is by Dr. George B. Saunders, Gainesville, Fla., the White-winged Dove specialist; taken at Brownsville, Tex., Aug. 8, 1941. The male attends from about 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (CST) and the female from about 4 p.m. to 9 a.m. We are indebted to Dr. Saunders and the Fish and Wildlife Service for the use of this unusual photo. See also p. 37.



EDITORIAL

News, Reviews, Announcements

Authors, Members, Letters

Items of Interest

A major problem facing us today is exploitation of the land. Too often this exploitation is rationalized to meet short range economic goals. A case in point is the planting of extensive even-aged stands of pine which is being carried out so vigorously in the Southeast.

We may agree that in the proper places proper afforestation is a conservation measure. This is not the same as saying that any sort of forest in any place it will grow is, therefore, good.

T. G. Scott of the Illinois Natural History Survey writing for the Conservation Committee of the Wilson Ornithological Society (Wilson Bulletin, vol. 70, p. 387, 1958) says:

"The effect of intensive forest management on bird life should be kept under observation. Inasmuch as pines can be grown more quickly than hardwoods, it seems likely that they will be used to an increasing extent for meeting the timber needs of the future. The currently expanding application of herbicides from airplanes to relieve pines of competition from hardwoods has a great potential for producing permanent change in bird populations. Because pure stands of pine support but little wildlife, Lay considered that the problem resolved itself into saving a sufficient proportion of hardwoods to meet the needs of wildlife while removing enough to permit production of a satisfactory stand of pine."

I think most zoologists and ecologists would agree that dense, pure stands of pines come close to being zoological deserts.

What do we mean by a proper forest in the proper place? Briefly, it would be the climax forest that would develop spontaneously in the particular area. Throughout most of North America south of latitude 48° these natural forests are mixed forests, both broad-leaved and coniferous trees growing together. Equally important is the uneven age of the trees with a proportion of overmature, even dying or dead trees.

Such forests, with selective logging and proper felling, can yield a reasonable harvest of such woods as oak, maple, hickory, and tulip poplar as well as pine. In this way we would have a supply of useful woods along with the variety of ecological conditions which is conducive to the best production of wildlife, protection of watersheds against erosion, and the other recreational values of natural forest.

Looking broadly at the problems of conservation of renewable natural resources, we find that many of these problems owe their very existence to agriculture. These problems do not arise in a hunting or a pastoral economy. This is not to say that the problems are insoluble or that agriculture is wholly bad. However, a necessary step in the solution of any problem is a correct statement of the problem and part of this statement is to call things by their right names.

The pine plantings we have been noticing are basically an agricultural exploitation of the land and it is unjustified to call them a conservation measure when, on balance, they are detrimental to most of the land values that are amenable to conservation.—C. H. BLAKE.

THE CAROLINA BIRD CLUB ENDOWMENT FUND

We take the liberty of condensing a detailed report by Mr. Fred H. May. The endowment fund is administered by the Endowment Fund Committee under Ellison A. Williams of Charleston, S. C., investment chairman, and Fred H. May of Lenoir, N.C., solicitation chairman. This fund, including interest thereon, cannot be used until Aug. 4, 1966. At Dec. 31, 1958, the balance in the fund was \$1151.06. The complete list of contributors follows.

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Subsequent donors will be listed in later issues of The Chat. A number of gifts have been made as memorials. The Committee feels this is a very fine way to perpetuate the memory of a departed friend and member and urges more such donations.

The Executive Committee of the CBC in 1956 agreed on the following purposes for the income from the endowment fund.

- 1) To promote interest in wildlife, particularly bird life, as a heritage to preserved.
- 2) To provide ways and means for conservation of wildlife as a vital contribution of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.
- 3) To stimulate education regarding conservation of our natural resources and instill sound principles of wildlife preservation among the general public.

Donations are deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes.

Contributions should be made to "CBC Endowment Fund" and sent to Ellison A. Williams, 27 Limehouse St., Charleston, S. C.

It is evident that Fred May has been really active around Lenoir but he cannot cover two states personally. Many members will have to get out and ask for money.

Congratulations to our former editor, Dr. Thomas L. Quay on his elevation to Elective Member of the American Ornithologists Union.

The Birdlife of the Savannah River Delta. Ivan R. Tomkins. 1958. Occasional Publication No. 4, Georgia Ornithological Society (Atlanta, Ga.) 68 pp. 1 map, 4 photographs. Paper \$1.50. In 1937 The Charleston Museum published Dr. Eugene Murphey's *Observations on the Bird Life of the Middle Savannah Valley*, based upon a study period extending from 1890 to 1937. In the present work, Tomkins draws from his thirty-odd years of intensive field work to compile notes on the Water Birds found around the mouth of the Savannah River. There is the customary inclusion of the Falconiformes and Galliformes. The 1957 A.O.U. Check-List is rigidly

followed in nomenclature, but not without an occasional hint of regret at the passing of an old acquaintance. The notes are greatly enhanced by a fine exposition of the area and a style of writing attractively seasoned with passages of theory, question, philosophy, and wit. The account of species goes well beyond the statement of occurrences usually found in annotated lists. Much life history is crowded into lines regrettably short and "... emphasis has been placed on habitat preference with reference to the transition from fresh to salt water influence, and ... on the movements of ... populations rather than on the erratic appearances of individuals. ... " To avoid repetition, most of the earlier records of the area were withheld since they were anticipated in Burleigh's *Georgia Birds* (1958), in press when Tomkin's manuscript was submitted. Since *Georgia Birds* carries no entry later than 1953, the present observations, extending into September of 1958, make a valuable supplement for the Savannah area. Included is the recently accepted *Anas discors orphna*, a dark race of the Blue-winged Teal, with the notation that, based upon the Check-List, it is presumed to be the wintering race in the delta. This interpretation is not clear to me. However, one wonders at the establishment at this early date of the range of a race so recently described.

It is hoped that the author will reconsider his statement that there will be no follow-up on Land Birds. He could share much knowledge in that category also.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews, N. C.*, April 7, 1959.

Wildlife Losses in Southern Fire Ant Program. Ralph H. Allen, Jr. Passenger Pigeon, vol. 20:144-147. The story told here should make any right-thinking citizen see red. When the Alabama Department of Conservation tried to enlist the help of citizens in reporting dead fish and wildlife, the Agriculture Department immediately broadcast the statement that any found were probably killed by cold weather. This did prevent public assistance. Conservation's own personnel gathered a number of dead birds and mammals and in every one more than a lethal amount of heptachlor was found by chemical analysis. The analyses were made by the Illinois Natural History Survey and that Survey does not pull its punches. The Director of Conservation soon informed the public of the facts. When the city of Monroeville, Alabama was sprayed with three pounds (standard chemical) of dieldrin per acre, more than 50 dogs, many cats, ducks, and turkeys were killed.

The fire ant in Argentina is regarded as beneficial since its food is mostly insects. There is no evidence that it affects wildlife. Perhaps a few people must be killed by these violent poisons before this broadcasting is stopped.—C. H. BLAKE.

CORRECTION. Arthur Stupka has called to our attention two errors in our tabulation of his Great Smoky Mountains Christmas count, in the March 1959 issue: page 7, for 10 Brown Pelicans, *read*, 10 Pied-billed Grebes, page 10, for 7 Brown-headed Nuthatches, *read*, 7 Brown Creepers. Please correct your copy NOW.

Brooke Meanley of the Fish and Wildlife Service desires large scale banding of nestling Redwings. We hope our members will report the location of breeding colonies to the nearest bander. It is regrettable that bird banders in the Carolinas are relatively few and widely scattered. In connection with this work it would be interesting to attempt a census of breeding Redwings. This would involve the counting of females as well as males as the former are usually more numerous in a breeding colony.

dividuals within the group; and their tendency, if migratory, to return to a given wintering or breeding area.

Studies of "divorce and remarriage" fall somewhat between the studies of the group and the studies of the individual bird, but they shed a good deal of light on the question of the productivity of the species and also on its habits in the management of the young, particularly after nest leaving.

Those problems which require the live bird in hand have not been completely explored. We do know that it is possible to collect parasites from such birds very successfully. One may also study such physiological functions as respiration and body temperature and closely connected with this is, of course, the study of metabolic rates.

It should be evident that bird banding has progressed a long way from the mere hope of learning something about migration routes to an investigation which comes close to encompassing the whole bird and all of its activities.—*Hillsboro, N. C., January 26, 1958.*

The Birds of Alaska. Ira N. Gabrielson and Frederick C. Lincoln, 1959. The Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Pa., xiii + 922 pp., 10 pl., 1 fig., 1 map, \$15.00. The 49th state had its bird book almost as soon as statehood. It is not inappropriate to review this book in THE CHAT. When Georg Wilhelm Steller, the first naturalist to visit Alaska, landed near Cape S. Elias, July 20, 1741, one of the few birds he collected was Steller's Jay which he recognized as related to the Blue Jay figured by Catesby. This convinced Steller that he was on the American continent. A rather considerable number of eastern species extend their ranges into eastern and central Alaska. One might say the region is the northern tip of both sides of the continent.

The authors, in an historical introduction, give a vivid idea of the hardships that beset naturalists in Alaska until fairly recent times. After a general account of migration in Alaskan birds and the ecology of the area, each species is described in order. These descriptions include appearance, range, haunts and habits, as well as native names. A few departures from the A.O.U. Check-list are of no concern to us in the Carolinas except that all North American Bank Swallows are regarded as an endemic race, *maximiliani*, differing from both the European and the Kamchatkan race, the Alaskan records of the latter being withdrawn. An appendix records five recent additions, from Eurasia, to the avifauna of Alaska (and North America). There is a useful gazeteer of Alaska by Myra A. Putnam.

The colored plates, by E. R. Kalmbach and O. J. Murie, include a number of infrequently figured species. I do not regard them as first class productions. The book as a whole should prove a useful addition to our regional avifaunas.—C. H. BLAKE.



Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, chiefly in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	\$1.00	Contributing	\$25.00
Supporting	\$5.00	Affiliated Club	\$2.00
Life—\$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)			

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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THE CHAT

Division of Birds

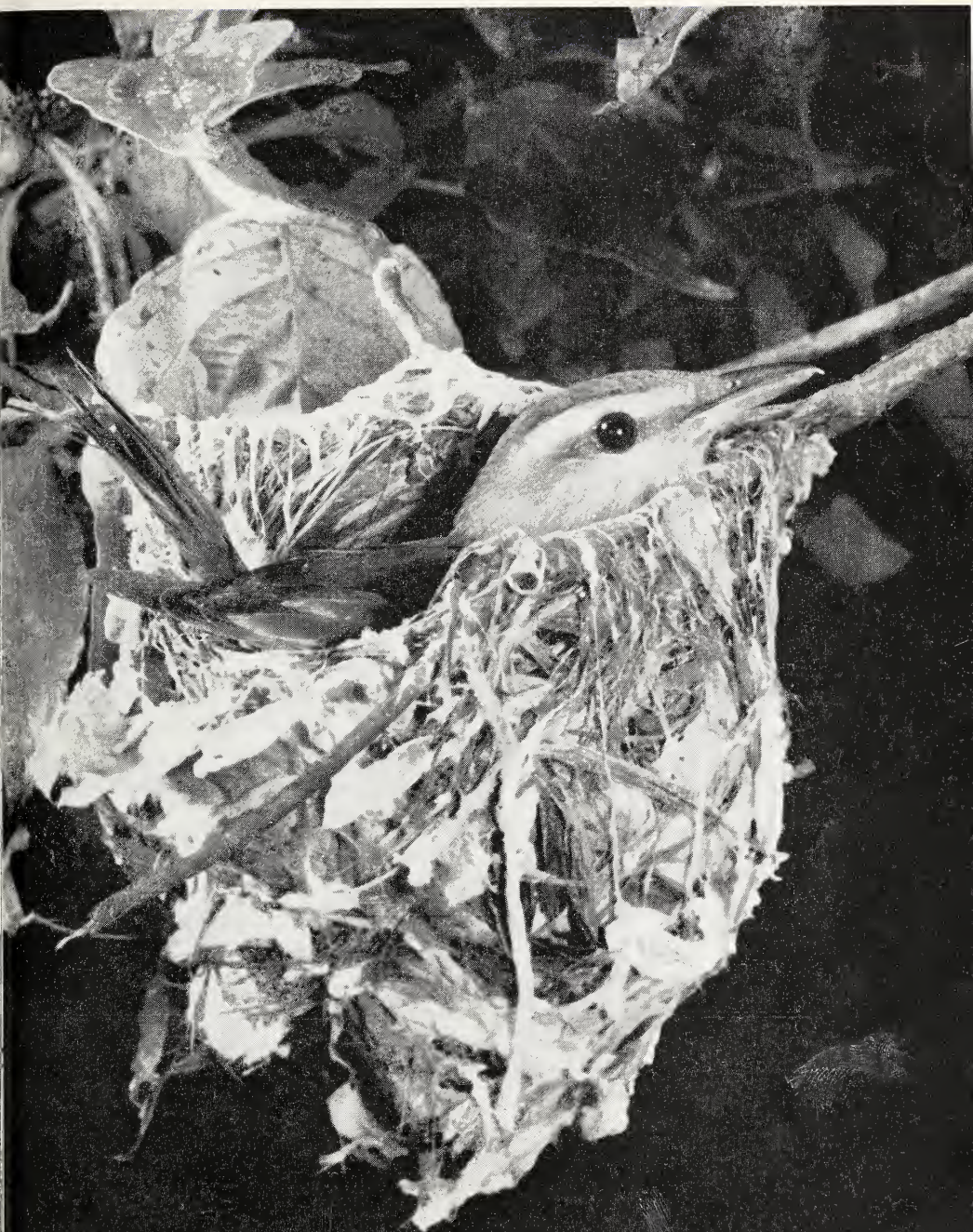
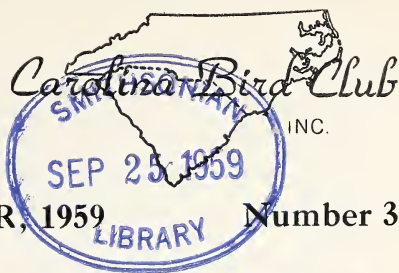
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Cover Photo.—Red-eyed Vireo brooding young in nest, Nash Co., N. C.
Photo by Jack Dermid.

The Chat

President's Page

It is with an even greater sense of responsibility and keener awareness of what lies before me that I enter my second year as President of the Carolina Bird Club. However, I can face the task with more confidence because I have with me the same Executive Committee which supported and counseled me so ably all last year. I am deeply grateful to the Nominating Committee for giving us this opportunity to work together for another year.

In the June, 1958 issue of *The Chat* my first dreams for CBC were laid out on the President's Page and I would like to ask each one of you to re-read that page and ask yourself how much you have done to help those aims along. Those are the basics we need before we can get off the ground.

My work on a Girl Scout Board has taught me that it is important to evaluate both our strengths and our weaknesses. Here are my evaluations drawn from experience and observation during the past year. You will probably have made others. Send them to me.

STRENGTHS

1. A magazine, *The Chat*, which has long been outstanding.
2. For *The Chat* Editor a man who not only knows his birds but is an author with previous editorial experience.
3. An outstanding Field Notes Editor.
4. A top-notch Field Trip Director.
5. A gifted and qualified Education Director.
6. Excellent committees with capable Chairmen.
7. Many capable amateur field observers with time and the equipment to devote to field work.
8. Many brilliant members whose contributions could push *The Chat* into the very top brackets.
9. Many members with planning and executive ability.
10. Exceptionally rich natural resources in both states.
11. Many wealthy individuals and industries in both states.
12. Many members who are going far beyond the line of duty to help the Club.
13. Many prominent out-of-state members.

WEAKNESSES

1. Our capable scientific writers are sending their material to out-of-state publications.
2. Too few observers are sending their observations to the Field Notes Editor.
3. Too few with executive ability volunteering their services.
4. Lack of understanding on the part of many members and citizens of the two states as to exactly what the terms "Bird Study" and "Conservation of Our Natural Resources" mean.
5. Lack of funds caused by lack of financial support from industries and wealthy individuals.
6. Failure of out-of-state members to realize their worth to the club.
7. Too few taking advantage of the excellent meetings and field trips.
8. Weak public relations.
9. Lack of a paid Executive Secretary to co-ordinate the work of the Club.
10. Lack of a long-term project.

It will be seen that our strengths slightly outnumber our weaknesses, which is good but, unfortunately, our strengths cannot be fully utilized until we correct our weaknesses. Some of the following questions about our weaknesses apply to you. What will you do to correct them?

1. Do you lack pride in *The Chat* or do you think there is more prestige in being published in an out-of-state journal? These journal editors read *The Chat* and republish good material.

2. Are you afraid to send in field observations for fear they may be rejected? Every capable observer has many rejections because the editor has access to over-all information which shows that a report could be doubtful. It is always best to hold a doubtful record for later confirmation. No observations are thrown away—they are filed and brought out for publication if later observations confirm them.
3. Do you hesitate to volunteer for service because you feel it requires special ornithological training to work in a Bird Club? There are many important jobs in the organization that require only executive ability and an interest in the work of the club.
4. Have you ever read any books on bird study or wise use of natural resources or have you ever asked one of your local organizations to show a film on either of these subjects? You have to know something about a subject before you can become enthusiastic about it.
5. Have you thought about the fact that no far reaching educational work can be done by any group without strong financial support? Can you do more in this way to help protect and preserve our wildlife heritage?
6. Are you, as an out-of-state member, giving the club the benefit of the knowledge you have gained through contact with other organizations?
7. Do you stay away from field trips because you feel they may be too strenuous for you? Every trip is planned with something in mind for everyone. Just your presence adds to the general enthusiasm and you will gain something from each trip.
8. Are you making any effort to give "newsworthy" reports of club activities to your local newspapers? I use the word "newsworthy" advisedly. If we wish to counteract the unfortunate tendency of many members of the Fourth Estate to regard our efforts as a butt for jokes we must be sure that our contributions are worthy of being classed as "news". A Public Relations Committee is being formed with Mrs. Fred D. Conderman, R. D. #3—Box 211, New Bern, N. C., as Chairman. Write to her for information or, better still, come to the meetings and talk with her and gather first hand information.
- 9 & 10. Will you correct these two lacks by responding to No. 5?

Please think about these things seriously and begin your assistance by coming to the fall field trip in Morehead City October 23-25. The New Bern and Morehead folks under the leadership of Fred Conderman and Alex Meadows are planning a wonderful time for everyone.

I have just finished reading a most interesting and vital message written by Richard H. Pough for the Bulletin of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Certain excerpts from it make a fitting close to my page:

"... many living things are vanishing from the face of the earth because man is thoughtlessly destroying every acre of the natural communities of which they are a part. . . . As today's "Flood" is an all encompassing one of civilization and the changes that come in its path, our "Arks" must be permanent ones designed to permit the continuity of life to go on unbroken through the centuries ahead. Modern "Noahs" are needed to help set up areas on every type of soil and in every climate that will serve as havens of refuge and safety for the hard pressed living things of the earth, treasures whose ultimate values lie far beyond our comprehension."

EDNA LANIER APPLEBERRY

(Please see page 70)

THE 1959 SPRING COUNT

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN

The results of the 1959 Spring census in the Carolinas seem to indicate some slight gain in population over last year. As usual, the variables inherent in our counts greatly reduce the value of comparisons. The count period extended from an early date of April 18 (Wilmington) to May 9 (Rockingham). However, 8 of the 12 reports sent in were made May 1st, to 3rd. For all counts, the weather was clear and mild or warm. Altogether, about 30,800 individuals and 211 species were tallied—with no large number of any single species. The high counts were naturally made at the coast, at Wilmington (148), and at Charleston (138).

With the exception of the **Golden Plover** and **Dickcissel** at Wilmington, no very unusual birds were seen. Warblers made a good showing. Phoebees were back in fair strength. Last spring only 51 Phoebees were reported. There are 108 in this year's counts. The distribution of the Phoebees is interesting. None appeared as far south as Wilmington, Eastover, or Charleston. Henderson, Raleigh and Rockingham listed 2 or 3. Bayboro, in Pamlico County, had 13. Lenoir, New London, and Greensboro, found 20, 22, and 35, respectively.

Regrettably, no reports were received from Chapel Hill or from Winston-Salem. New and interesting areas added this year are Bayboro and Rockingham.—*July 16, 1959.*

Bayboro, Pamlico Co., N. C. (One mile radius centering at Pamlico County High School, and a 1½ mile stretch along Pamlico Sound. Mixed woods and edges, 60%; open fields and farmland, 25%; city lawns, 5%; shore area, 10%). May 2, 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunny and light breeze throughout the day. One observer. Total hours, 12 (10 on foot, 2 by car); total miles, 45 (10 on foot, 35 by car). Great Blue Heron, 1; Canada Goose, 4; Turkey Vulture, 5; Black Vulture, 6 Cooper's Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 2; Osprey, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 8; Bobwhite, 48; Semipalmated Plover, 1; Killdeer, 9; Common Snipe, 2; Lesser Yellowlegs, 2; Herring Gull 78; Ring-billed Gull, 14; Laughing Gull, 147; Least Tern, 2; Black Skimmer, 7; Mourning Dove, 9; Chimney Swift, 146; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 3; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 19; Pileated Woodpecker, 6; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 13; Eastern Kingbird, 21; Great Crested Flycatcher, 16; Eastern Phoebe, 13; Acadian Flycatcher, 4; Eastern Wood Pewee, 11; Rough-winged Swallow, 3; Purple Martin, 90; Blue Jay, 11; Common Crow, 39; Fish Crow, 23; Carolina Chickadee, 16; Tufted Titmouse, 13; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 4; Carolina Wren, 13; Mockingbird, 56; Catbird, 8; Brown Thrasher, 28; Robin, 4; Wood Thrush, 7; Eastern Bluebird, 10; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 7; Cedar Waxwing, 8; Loggerhead Shrike, 14; Starling, 99; White-eyed Vireo, 11; Red-eyed Vireo, 16; Prothonotary Warbler, 1; Parula Warbler, 26; Yellow Warbler, 2; Myrtle Warbler, 25; Yellow-throated Warbler, 6; Pine Warbler, 13; Prairie Warbler, 57; Ovenbird, 1; Yellowthroat, 19; Yellow-breasted Chat, 4; Hooded Warbler, 7; House Sparrow, 156; Eastern Meadowlark, 49; Redwinged Blackbird, 127; Orchard Oriole, 6; Boat-tailed Grackle, 53; Common Grackle, 137; Brown-headed Cowbird, 16; Cardinal, 76; Indigo Bunting, 11; Am. Goldfinch, 8; Rufous-sided Towhee, 77; Savannah Sparrow, 14; Chipping Sparrow, 22; Field Sparrow, 78; White-throated Sparrow, 61. **Total, 78 species; 2175 individuals.** Robert Ussery (This report is accepted because of thorough coverage, although the area is non-standard in size).

Charleston, S. C. (area unchanged). May 2, 6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear, temp. 65°—88°; wind SSE-NNW, 0-6 m.p.h. Eleven observers in 4 parties; total party-hours 43 (24.5 on foot, 17 by car, 1.5 by boat); total party-miles, 151.5 (33 on foot, 113.5 by car, 5 by boat). Pied-billed Grebe, 20; Brown Pelican, 27; Double-crested Cormorant, 4; Anhinga, 1; Great Blue Heron, 16; Green Heron, 15; Little Blue Heron, 17; Cattle Egret, 1; Common Egret, 31; Snowy Egret, 46; Louisiana Heron, 31; Black-crowned Night Heron, 2; Least Bittern, 1; Wood Ibis, 2; Glossy Ibis, 5; White Ibis 142; Blue-winged Teal, 30; Wood Duck, 2; Lesser Scaup, 40; Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Turkey Vulture, 31; Black Vulture, 12; Mississippi Kite, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 6; Bald Eagle, 1; Osprey, 7; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 20; Turkey, 4; Clapper Rail, 8; Virginia Rail 1; Common Gallinule, 12; Am. Coot, 100+; Am. Oystercatcher, 3; Semipalmated Plover, 128; Wilson's Plover, 4; Black-bellied Plover, 18; Ruddy Turnstone, 9; Am. Woodcock, 1; Common Snipe, 1; Whimbrel, 23; Spotted Sandpiper, 8; Willet, 15; Greater Yellowlegs, 46; Lesser Yellowlegs, 6; White-rumped Sandpiper, 1; Least Sandpiper, 1; Dunlin, 71; Short-billed Dowitcher, 78; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 28; Western Sandpiper, 2; Sanderling, 12; Black-necked Stilt, 8; Herring Gull, 35; Ring-billed Gull, 14; Laughing Gull, 20; Gull-billed Tern, 4; Forster's Tern, 16; Common Tern, 1; Least Tern, 19; Royal Tern, 5; Caspian Tern, 1; Mourning Dove, 14; Ground Dove, 1; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 30; Chuck-will's-widow, 2; Common Nighthawk, 3; Chimney Swift, 50; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 11; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 9; Pileated Woodpecker, 19; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 33; Red-headed Woodpecker, 10; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Red-cockaded Woodpecker, 6; Eastern Kingbird, 19; Great Crested Flycatcher, 62; Acadian Flycatcher, 14; Eastern Wood Pewee, 23; Tree Swallow, 26; Rough-winged Swallow, 8; Barn Swallow, 1; Purple Martin, 65; Blue Jay, 23; Common Crow, 37; Fish Crow, 6; Carolina Chickadee, 18; Tufted Titmouse, 26; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 18; Carolina Wren, 59; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 4; Mockingbird, 21; Catbird, 6; Brown Thrasher, 12; Wood Thrush, 8; Hermit Thrush, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 4; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 16; Cedar Waxwing, 25; Loggerhead Shrike, 7; Starling, 18; White-eyed Vireo, 35; Yellow-throated Vireo, 13; Red-eyed Vireo, 47; Prothonotary Warbler, 8; Parula Warbler, 82; Magnolia Warbler, 1; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 1; Black-throated Green Warbler, 10; Yellow-throated Warbler, 42; Pine Warbler, 30; Prairie Warbler, 13; Yellowthroat, 12; Yellow-breasted Chat, 27; Hooded Warbler, 29; Am. Redstart, 1; House Sparrow, 6; Bobolink, 13; Eastern Meadowlark, 16; Redwinged Blackbird, 151+; Orchard Oriole 15; Boat-tailed Grackle, 23; Common Grackle, 10; Summer Tanager, 51; Cardinal, 65; Blue Grosbeak, 2; Indigo Bunting, 3; Painted Bunting, 64; Rufous-sided Towhee, 16; Savannah Sparrow, 12; Bachman's Sparrow, 6; Chipping Sparrow, 9; White-throated Sparrow, 11. Total, 138 species (1 additional subspecies); 3782 individuals. Mr. and Mrs. Francis Barrington, T. A. Beckett, III, Dr. J. E. Cavanagh, E. Burnham Chamberlain (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Coleman, E. S. Dingle, Mrs. Ann W. Richardson, Miss Elizabeth Simmons, R. D. Edwards.

Charlotte, N. C. (7½ mile radius centering at 7th Street and Briar Creek; deciduous-pine woods and edge 65%, lakes and ponds 2%, open field and farmland 30%, city lawns 3%). May 2; 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Fair; temp. 55° to 91°; wind S, 4-10 m.p.h. Ten observers in 3 parties. Total party hours, 22½ (15 on foot, 7½ by car); total party-miles, 95 (10 on foot, 85 by car). Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 2; Black Vulture, 6; Red-shouldered Hawk, 3; Bobwhite, 10; Killdeer, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 3; Soli-

tary Sandpiper, 4; Mourning Dove, 57; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 3; Chuck-will's-widow, 2; Whip-poor-will, 1; Common Nighthawk, 6; Chimney Swift, 16; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 6; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 10; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Eastern Kingbird, 5; Great Crested Flycatcher, 7; Eastern Phoebe, 6; Acadian Flycatcher, 7; Eastern Wood Pewee, 14; Rough-winged Swallow, 2; Blue Jay, 58; Common Crow, 23; Carolina Chickadee, 15; Tufted Titmouse, 14; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 7; House Wren, 5; Carolina Wren, 26; Mockingbird, 40; Catbird, 11; Brown Thrasher, 15; Robin, 52; Wood Thrush, 49; Swainson's Thrush, 3; Eastern Bluebird, 21; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 8; Cedar Waxwing, 8; Loggerhead Shrike, 3; Starling, 29; White-eyed Vireo, 7; Yellow-throated Vireo, 15; Red-eyed Vireo, 30; Cape May Warbler, 7; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 3; Myrtle Warbler, 5; Blackburnian Warbler, 1; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 1; Blackpoll Warbler, 1; Pine Warbler, 4; Prairie Warbler, 5; Ovenbird, 3; Northern Waterthrush, 1; Kentucky Warbler, 2; Yellowthroat, 2; Yellow-breasted Chat, 7; Hooded Warbler, 4; Canada Warbler, 1; Am. Redstart, 10; House Sparrow, 37; Eastern Meadowlark, 37; Redwinged Blackbird, 8; Orchard Oriole, 1; Baltimore Oriole, 2; Common Grackle, 26; Scarlet Tanager, 3; Summer Tanager, 12; Cardinal, 64; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 2; Blue Grosbeak, 3; Indigo Bunting, 9; Am. Goldfinch, 11; Rufous-sided Towhee, 25; Grasshopper Sparrow, 3; Chipping Sparrow, 18; Field Sparrow, 18; White-throated Sparrow, 12; Song Sparrow, 2. Totals: 82 species, about 974 individuals.—Mrs. Lester Carleton, B. R. Chamberlain, Dr. and Mrs. W. G. Cobey, Mrs. Ray Ford, Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Hawley, Mrs. Ranie E. Hendrix, Joseph R. Norwood (compiler), Mrs. Joseph R. Norwood, Mrs. George C. Potter, Mrs. E. J. Presser, Mrs. W. E. Simons, William Smith.

Notes: Some of the above were part-time participants and were not officially counted. Low individuals count due to inadequate coverage of area. Yellow-crowned Night Herons were nesting just outside Charlotte city. Seen day after count: Green Heron, Barred Owl.

Eastover S. C. (area same as in Christmas counts). Apr. 22 eight hours or more in the field; cloudy, 58° to 65°; light rain ending about noon. Wind moderate, NNE. Two observers in 1 party. Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Little Blue Heron, 4; Common Egret, 1; Blue-winged Teal, 10; Wood Duck, 4; Ring-necked Duck, 1; Turkey Vulture, 1; Black Vulture, 7; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; **Bald Eagle**, 1 (imm., KCS); Bobwhite, 16; Spotted Sandpiper, 4; Greater Yellowlegs, 5 (KCS); Lesser Yellowlegs, 11 (KCS); Mourning Dove, 25; Chuck-will's-widow, 1; Common Nighthawk, 1; Chimney Swift, 8; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Eastern Kingbird, 19; Great Crested Flycatcher, 1; Eastern Wood Pewee, 1; Rough-winged Swallow, 7; Barn Swallow, 8; Purple Martin, 110; Blue Jay, 18; Common Crow, 9; Carolina Chickadee, 2 (young in box); Tufted Titmouse, 4; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 2; Carolina Wren, 4; Mockingbird, 13; Brown Thrasher, 8; Wood Thrush, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 1; Loggerhead Shrike, 11; Starling, 8; White-eyed Vireo, 1; Red-eyed Vireo, 2; Parula Warbler, 2; Myrtle Warbler, 3; Pine Warbler, 1; Prairie Warbler, 4; Yellowthroat, 1; Hooded Warbler, 3; Am. Redstart, 2; House Sparrow, 55; Bobolink, 3; Eastern Meadowlark, 28; Redwinged Blackbird, 18; Orchard Oriole, 9; Common Grackle, 30; Summer Tanager, 1; Cardinal, 15; Blue Grosbeak, 7; Indigo Bunting, 14; Am. Goldfinch, 1; Rufous-sided Towhee, 5; Savannah Sparrow, 15; Chipping Sparrow, 20; Field Sparrow, 12; White-throated Sparrow, 25. **Total**, 64 species; 611 individuals. Seen, Apr. 25: Acadian Flycatcher, 1; Black-and-white Warbler, 1. Mrs. W. H. Faver (compiler), Mrs. Clyde Sisson.

Greensboro. (area same as in Christmas counts). May 2. (details omitted) Eighteen observers in 10 parties. Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Great Blue Heron, 1; Green Heron, 6; Am. Bittern, 1; Mallard, 13; Wood Duck, 3; Lesser Scaup, 1; Turkey Vulture, 16; Black Vulture, 6; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 4; Broad-winged Hawk, 1; Osprey, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 47; Sora, 1; Florida Gallinule, 1; Am. Coot, 1; Semipalmated Plover, 2; Killdeer, 29; Common Snipe, 2; Spotted Sandpiper, 20; Solitary Sandpiper, 13; Lesser Yellowlegs, 3; Mourning Dove, 149; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 9; Black-billed Cuckoo, 1; Great Horned Owl, 2; Barred Owl, 2; Whip-poor-will, 4; Common Nighthawk, 16; Chimney Swift, 130; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 14; Belted Kingfisher, 18; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 38; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 32; Red-headed Woodpecker, 7; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 35; Eastern Kingbird, 50; Great Crested Flycatcher, 29; Eastern Phoebe, 35; Acadian Flycatcher, 41; Eastern Wood Pewee, 71; Horned Lark, 2; Tree Swallow, 5; Bank Swallow, 3; Rough-winged Swallow, 31; Barn Swallow, 19; Purple Martin, 32; Blue Jay, 170; Am. Crow, 109; Carolina Chickadee, 122; Tufted Titmouse, 126; White-breasted Nuthatch, 22; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 30; House Wren, 37; Carolina Wren, 84; Mockingbird, 200; Catbird, 56; Brown Thrasher, 92; Robin, 244; Wood Thrush, 214; Hermit Thrush, 1; Swainson's Thrush, 23; Veery, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 85; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 58; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Cedar Waxwing, 68; Loggerhead Shrike, 15; Starling, 608; White-eyed Vireo, 34; Yellow-throated Vireo, 43; Solitary Vireo, 2; Red-eyed Vireo, 144; Black-and-white Warbler, 16; Prothonotary Warbler, 6; Parula Warbler, 37; Yellow Warbler, 37; Cape May Warbler, 13; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 13; Myrtle Warbler, 58; Black-throated Green Warbler, 5; Blackburnian Warbler, 2; Yellow-throated Warbler, 10; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 7; Blackpoll Warbler, 1; Pine Warbler, 46; Prairie Warbler, 38; Palm Warbler, 7; Ovenbird, 77; Louisiana Waterthrush, 5; Kentucky Warbler, 4; Yellowthroat, 54; Yellow-breasted Chat, 38; Hooded Warbler, 77; Am. Redstart, 76; House Sparrow, 408; Bobolink, 1; Eastern Meadowlark, 186; Redwinged Blackbird, 464; Orchard Oriole, 8; Baltimore Oriole, 1; Rusty Blackbird, 8; Common Grackle, 111; Brown-headed Cowbird, 18; Scarlet Tanager, 21; Summer Tanager, 53; Cardinal, 308; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 10; Blue Grosbeak, 23; Indigo Bunting, 58; Purple Finch, 5; Am. Goldfinch, 175; Rufous-sided Towhee, 153; Savannah Sparrow, 4; Grasshopper Sparrow, 33; Bachman's Sparrow, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 1; Chipping Sparrow, 154; Field Sparrow, 98; White-throated Sparrow, 74; Song Sparrow, 33. Total, 122 species; 6576 individuals. Inez Coldwell, Larry Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Craft, Charlotte Dawley, Mrs. R. D. Douglas, Sidney Holmes, Mrs. Robert McCoy, Ethel McNairy, Ida Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. George Perrett, Etta Schiffmann, Mrs. Edith Settan, George A. Smith (compiler), Thomas Street, Mrs. Charles M. Swart, Mrs. Margaret Wall.

Henderson, N. C. (Area same as in previous counts). May 2, 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Clear and mild. Nine observers. Party data not given. Turkey Vulture, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 8; Spotted Sandpiper, 1; Mourning Dove, 8; Barred Owl, 1; Chimney Swift, 5; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 2; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 2; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Eastern Kingbird, 3; Great Crested Flycatcher, 3; Eastern Phoebe, 3; Acadian Flycatcher, 1; Eastern Wood Pewee, 3; Rough-winged Swallow, 1; Blue Jay, 6; Common Crow, 5; Carolina Chickadee, 3; Tufted Titmouse, 4; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 2; House Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 6; Mockingbird, 10; Catbird, 4; Brown Thrasher, 8; Robin, 7; Wood Thrush, 3; Eastern Bluebird, 5; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher,

4; Cedar Waxwing, 1; Loggerhead Shrike, 1; Starling, 8; White-eyed Vireo, 3; Yellow-throated Vireo, 1; Red-eyed Vireo, 4; **Golden-winged Warbler**, 1; Prothonotary Warbler, 2; Parula Warbler, 4; Yellow Warbler, 1; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 12; Blackburnian Warbler, 2; Yellow-throated Warbler, 3; Pine Warbler, 1; Prairie Warbler, 4; Ovenbird, 2; Louisiana Waterthrush, 2; Kentucky Warbler, 1; Yellowthroat, 3; Yellow-breasted Chat, 3; Hooded Warbler, 3; Am. Redstart, 4; House Sparrow, 8; Eastern Meadowlark, 6; Redwinged Blackbird, 6; Common Grackle, 2; Summer Tanager, 2; Cardinal, 8; Indigo Bunting, 4; Am. Goldfinch, 18; Rufous-sided Towhee, 6; Savannah Sparrow, 1; Chipping Sparrow, 6; Field Sparrow, 12; White-throated Sparrow, 3. **Total**, 73 species; 271 individuals. Seen in the same area, May 3: Am. Woodcock, 1; Swainson's Thrush, 1; Black-and-white Warbler, 1; Blackpoll Warbler, 1; Scarlet Tanager, 1. Gus and Jeanette Bachman, Ruth Brown, Fred and Margaret Conderman, Mariel Gary (compiler), May Hunter, Mary McLauren, Garnette Myers.

Jefferson, N. C. (Area centers around the Hurt farm, in Nathan's Creek Community—same as in 1958). (In 1956, in error it was stated "Area same as in Christmas Counts") May 3; 7:30 a.m.—6:30 p.m.; clear; temp. 58-62°. Two observers in one party; total party-hours 10 (9½ on foot, ½ by car); total party-miles 17 (8 on foot, 9 by car). Turkey Vulture, 5; Broad-winged Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 8; Mourning Dove, 4; Whip-poor-will, 3; Chimney Swift, 5; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Eastern Kingbird, 3; Great Crested Flycatcher, 1; Eastern Phoebe, 5; Least Flycatcher, 5; Eastern Wood Pewee, 5; Rough-winged Swallow, 8; Barn Swallow, 10; Blue Jay, 3; Common Crow, 29; Carolina Chickadee, 5; Tufted Titmouse, 14; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; House Wren, 4; Eewick's Wren, 5; Carolina Wren, 14; Catbird, 11; Brown Thrasher, 11; Robin, 16; Eastern Bluebird, 3; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 2; Starling, 15; White-eyed Vireo, 1; Yellow-throated Vireo, 4; Red-eyed Vireo, 6; Black-and-white Warbler, 2; Parula Warbler, 1; Yellow Warbler, 19; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 1; Black-throated Green Warbler, 1; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 3; Ovenbird, 6; Yellowthroat, 1; Yellow-breasted Chat, 8; Hooded Warbler, 1; Am. Redstart, 4; House Sparrow, 42; Eastern Meadowlark, 15; Redwinged Blackbird, 51; Baltimore Oriole, 4; Common Grackle, 8; Brown-headed Cowbird, 1; Scarlet Tanager, 7; Cardinal, 20; Indigo Bunting, 7; Am. Goldfinch, 20; Rufous-sided Towhee, 17; Henslow's Sparrow, 1; Chipping Sparrow, 41; Field Sparrow, 5; White-throated Sparrow, 1; Swamp Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 18. **Totals**: 64 species; 524 individuals. (Seen in area May 4, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Magnolia Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler; Seen May 5, Cedar Waxwing; seen May 6, Osprey, Pied-billed Grebe, and Belted Kingfisher; seen April 24, Mallard, Red-bellied Woodpecker; May 2, Red-headed Woodpecker.) John R. Jackson, Mrs. A. B. Hurt (Compiler).

Lenoir, N. C. (Area as in former counts plus Indian Grave Mountains and grounds around slaughter house). May 2, 5:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Fair; 80°, light SW wind. Twenty-six observers, four parties in cars, others at home grounds. Car miles, about 30; about 5 miles on foot, Green Heron, 2; Black-crowned Night Heron, 2; Blue-winged Teal, 8; Turkey Vulture, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Broad-winged Hawk, 2; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Bobwhite, 18; Killdeer, 7; Spotted Sandpiper, 4; Solitary Sandpiper, 2; Greater Yellowlegs, 1; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 2; Rock Dove, 9; Mourning Dove, 49; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 7; Black-billed Cuckoo, 2; Screech Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 1; Whip-poor-will, 12; Common Nighthawk, 8; Chimney Swift, 23; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 6; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 17; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Wood-

pecker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Eastern Kingbird, 9; Great Crested Flycatcher, 2; Eastern Phoebe, 20; Acadian Flycatcher, 9; Least Flycatcher, 6; Eastern Wood Pewee, 20; Horned Lark, 5; Rough-winged Swallow, 18; Barn Swallow, 17; Cliff Swallow, 1; Purple Martin, 1; Blue Jay, 37; Common Crow, 28; Carolina Chickadee, 45; Tufted Titmouse, 35; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; House Wren, 5; Carolina Wren, 47; Mockingbird, 28; Catbird, 18; Brown Thrasher, 25; Robin, 69; Wood Thrush, 43; Eastern Bluebird, 27; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 10; Cedar Waxwing, 53; Loggerhead Shrike, 2; Starling, 49; White-eyed Vireo, 15; Yellow-throated Vireo, 11; Solitary Vireo, 2; Red-eyed Vireo, 15; Black-and-white Warbler, 12; Blue-winged Warbler, 3; Parula Warbler, 5; Yellow Warbler, 23; Magnolia Warbler, 2; Cape May Warbler, 16; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 4; Myrtle Warbler, 5; Black-throated Green Warbler, 10; Yellow-throated Warbler, 4; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 9; Blackpoll Warbler, 6; Pine Warbler, 48; Ovenbird, 21; Northern Waterthrush, 2; Kentucky Warbler, 5; Yellowthroat, 26; Yellow-breasted Chat, 34; Hooded Warbler, 28; Am. Redstart, 14; House Sparrow, 56; Bobolink, 17; Eastern Meadowlark, 27; Redwinged Blackbird, 58; Orchard Oriole, 3; **Baltimore Oriole**, 2; Common Grackle, 25; Brown-headed Cowbird, 24; Scarlet Tanager, 20; Summer Tanager, 14; Cardinal, 24; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 10; Blue Grosbeak, 20; Indigo Bunting, 34; Purple Finch, 1; Am. Goldfinch, 57; Rufous-sided Towhee, 40; Savannah Sparrow, 7; Grasshopper Sparrow, 6; Vesper Sparrow, 2; Chipping Sparrow, 24; Field Sparrow, 32; White-crowned Sparrow, 17; White-throated Sparrow, 36; Song Sparrow, 62. **Total**, species 108; individuals 1788. (The Northern Waterthrushes, the first for Lenoir, were seen in widely separated areas by Wendell Smith and Fred May. The Blue-winged Warblers were seen by Mr. Smith and Miss Susan Taylor). Mrs. Nancy Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Bernard, Miss Isabel Bernhardt, Mrs. Murray Bruner, Miss Joyce Bruner, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Greer, Miss Margaret Harper, Miss Cary Harrison, Jack Harrison, Leslie Hines, Frank Hoyer, Miss Irene Hoyer, Mrs. Charles Hughes, J. T. Ingram, Mr. and Mrs. Fred May, Mrs. Yancey Moore, Miss Helen Myers, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Parks, Wendell P. Smith (North Wilkesboro), Dr. E. H. E. Taylor, Dr. James Taylor, Miss Susan Taylor. Mrs. May, (compiler). Transcribed by Mrs. Bernard.

New London, N. C. (same area as in previous count but excluding Morrow Mt. State Park). Apr. 25, 4:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., temp. 40° to 70°; fair; wind SW, 8 m.p.h. Twenty-three observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 35½ (19 by car, 16½ on foot); total party miles, 174 (162½ by car, 11½ on foot). Blue-winged Teal, 2; Wood Duck, 3; Lesser Scaup, 3; Turkey Vulture, 50; Black Vulture, 3; Cooper's Hawk, 3; Red-tailed Hawk, 4; Broad-winged Hawk, 2; Bobwhite, 12; Killdeer, 24; Common Snipe, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 6; Solitary Sandpiper, 1; Ring-billed Gull, 30; Mourning Dove, 36; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1; Barred Owl, 3; Whip-poor-will, 5; Chimney Swift, 104; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 2; Belted Kingfisher, 8; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 5; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 8; Red-headed Woodpecker, 6; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Eastern Kingbird, 2; Great Crested Flycatcher, 4; Eastern Phoebe, 22; Eastern Wood Pewee, 4; Tree Swallow, 1; Barn Swallow, 7; Rough-winged Swallow, 72; Cliff Swallow, 1; Purple Martin, 332; Blue Jay, 58; Common Crow, 75; Carolina Chickadee, 43; Tufted Titmouse, 61; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 3; House Wren, 6; Carolina Wren, 58; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 67; Catbird, 18; Brown Thrasher, 41; Robin, 64; Wood Thrush, 30;

Swainson's Thrush, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 89; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 70; Cedar Waxwing, 80; Loggerhead Shrike, 36; Starling, 116; White-eyed Vireo, 39; Yellow-throated Vireo, 18; Solitary Vireo, 1; Red-eyed Vireo, 72; Black-and-white Warbler, 7; Prothonotary Warbler, 8; Parula Warbler, 3; Yellow Warbler, 2; Cape May Warbler, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 32; Black-throated Green Warbler, 1; Yellow-throated Warbler, 12; Pine Warbler, 21; Prairie Warbler, 48; Ovenbird, 1; Louisiana Waterthrush, 6; Yellowthroat, 42; Hooded Warbler, 19; Am. Redstart, 52; House Sparrow, 223; Redwinged Blackbird, 95; Eastern Meadowlark, 130; Orchard Oriole, 7; Common Grackle, 12; Brown-headed Cowbird, 7; Scarlet Tanager, 2; Summer Tanager, 28; Cardinal, 145; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1; Blue Grosbeak, 9; Indigo Bunting, 10; Purple Finch, 2; Rufous-sided Towhee, 9; Am. Goldfinch, 48; Grasshopper Sparrow, 16; Chipping Sparrow, 64. **Total species, 98; individuals, 3082.** Mrs. E. S. Blivens, P. E. Book, Mrs. Barrett Crook, George Culp, Joe Ferrebee, Susan Greene, C. M. Haithcock, H. B. Hoener, Mrs. G. M. Isenhour, Gail Mahathey, Donald Maner, Vera Mason, Dwight Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Norwood, Sue Trott Parker, Irvin Poplin, Mrs. L. A. Price, Wayne Smith, John Trott, Jr., Mr. John Whitlock, Mrs. John Whitlock (compiler).

Raleigh, N. C. (area same as in Christmas counts). May 1, 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Clear, calm in p.m. Temp. 48° to 75°. Six observers. Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Great Blue Heron, 1; Green Heron, 1; Am. Bittern, 1; Black Vulture, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Bobwhite, 49; Killdeer, 8; Common Snipe, 6; Spotted Sandpiper, 3; Solitary Sandpiper, 1; Greater Yellowlegs, 6; Herring Gull, 6; Ring-billed Gull, 1; Mourning Dove, 61; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1; Whip-poor-will, 2; Common Nighthawk, 6; Chimney Swift, 42; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 2; Belted Kingfisher, 5; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 9; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 7; Red-headed Woodpecker, 5; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Eastern Kingbird, 11; Great Crested Flycatcher, 11; Eastern Phoebe, 2; Eastern Wood Pewee, 8; Bank Swallow, 2; Rough-winged Swallow, 22; Barn Swallow, 6; Blue Jay, 72; Common Crow, 43; Carolina Chickadee, 8; Tufted Titmouse, 22; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 3; Brown Creeper, 2; House Wren, 4; Carolina Wren, 15; Mockingbird, 60; Catbird, 12; Brown Thrasher, 16; Robin, 81; Wood Thrush, 29; Hermit Thrush, 1; Swainson's Thrush, 1; Veery, 2; Eastern Bluebird, 38; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 4; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Cedar Waxwing, 12; Loggerhead Shrike, 9; Starling, 416; White-eyed Vireo, 13; Yellow-throated Vireo, 4; Solitary Vireo, 2; Red-eyed Vireo, 12; Black-and-white Warbler, 8; Prothonotary Warbler, 2; Parula Warbler, 3; Yellow Warbler, 6; Magnolia Warbler, 2; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 8; Myrtle Warbler, 21; Yellow-throated Warbler, 5; Blackpoll Warbler, 3; Pine Warbler, 8; Prairie Warbler, 12; Ovenbird, 4; Louisiana Waterthrush, 2; Yellowthroat, 7; Yellow-breasted Chat, 9; Hooded Warbler, 8; Am. Redstart, 8; House Sparrow, 410; Eastern Meadowlark, 62; Redwinged Blackbird, 41; Orchard Oriole, 4; Common Grackle, 2; Scarlet Tanager, 1; Summer Tanager, 4; Cardinal, 44; Am. Goldfinch, 17; Rufous-sided Towhee, 87; Grasshopper Sparrow, 5; Slate-colored Junco, 6; Chipping Sparrow, 48; Field Sparrow, 37; White-throated Sparrow, 61; Swamp Sparrow, 6; Song Sparrow, 14. **Total species, 97; individuals, 2149.** Philip Davis, J. F. Greene, W. L. Hamnett, Mrs. E. W. Winkler, Mrs. D. L. Wray, D. L. Wray (compiler).

Seen in general area—small pond, 1½ miles east of Clayton—May 2, a Cattle Egret (JFG).

Rockingham, N. C. (area centering at Seaboard Railway Depot, six mile

radius; 45% lakes, ponds, streams; 30% deciduous woodland; 15% fields and brush; 5% pinewoods; 5% marsh). May 9, 4:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Very cloudy; temp. 50° to 70°; little wind. Two observers in two parties. Total party hours, 28 (all on foot); total party miles, 31 (all on foot). Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Great Blue Heron, 7; Green Heron, 3; Common Egret, 1; Wood Duck, 3; Scaup (sp), 1; Turkey Vulture, 3; Black Vulture, 8; Cooper's Hawk, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Red-shouldered Hawk, 7; Broad-winged Hawk, 3; Osprey, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Bobwhite, 17; Killdeer, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 3; Solitary Sandpiper, 4; Mourning Dove, 46; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 11; Whip-poor-will, 8; Common Nighthawk, 1; Chimney Swift, 66; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 2; Belted Kingfisher, 5; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 9; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 11; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 12; Eastern Kingbird, 5; Great Crested Flycatcher, 30; Eastern Phoebe, 2; Acadian Flycatcher, 2; Eastern Wood Pewee, 19; Rough-winged Swallow, 19; Barn Swallow, 13; Purple Martin, 29; Blue Jay, 89; Common Crow, 41; Carolina Chickadee, 15; Tufted Titmouse, 16; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 4; House Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 22; Catbird, 19; Mockingbird, 26; Brown Thrasher, 13; Robin, 23; Wood Thrush, 67; Swainson's Thrush, 1; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 9; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 15; Loggerhead Shrike, 16; Starling, 41; White-eyed Vireo, 12; Yellow-throated Vireo, 1; Red-eyed Vireo, 20; Black-and-white Warbler, 1; Prothonotary Warbler, 13; Worm-eating Warbler, 1; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 4; Myrtle Warbler, 2; Yellow-throated Warbler, 8; Pine Warbler, 3; Prairie Warbler, 23; Ovenbird, 1; Northern Waterthrush, 1; Louisiana Waterthrush, 2; Kentucky Warbler, 1; Yellow Warbler, 1; Yellowthroat, 10; Yellow-breasted Chat, 18; Hooded Warbler, 6; Am. Redstart, 2; House Sparrow, 25; Eastern Meadowlark, 10; Redwinged Blackbird, 36; Orchard Oriole, 2; Common Grackle, 56; Scarlet Tanager, 1; Cardinal, 58; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1; Blue Grosbeak, 21; Indigo Bunting, 48; Am. Goldfinch, 18; Rufous-sided Towhee, 22; Chipping Sparrow, 15; Field Sparrow, 15; White-throated Sparrow, 5; Swamp Sparrow, 1. **Total species, 92; individuals, 1246.** Seen in area, May 10, Cedar Waxwings, 106. Victor Duehring, Nicky Lovin (compiler).

Wilmington, N. C. (area same as in Christmas counts). Apr. 18, 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Clear, temp. 54° to 78°; wind S to SW, 10 to 20 m.p.h. Twelve observers in five parties. Total party-hours, 60 (35 on foot, 25 by car); total party-miles, 275 (33 on foot, 242 by car). Common Loon, 4; Red-throated Loon, 3; Horned Grebe, 3; Brown Pelican, 1; Double-crested Cormorant, 1; Great Blue Heron, 17; Green Heron, 10; Little Blue Heron, 6; Common Egret, 47; Snowy Egret, 69; Louisiana Heron, 14; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 3; Am. Bittern, 1; Glossy Ibis, 6; Mallard, 4; Pintail, 1; Blue-winged Teal, 17; Wood Duck, 5; Lesser Scaup, 10; Bufflehead, 6; Oldsquaw, 1; Red-breasted Merganser, 3; Black Vulture, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Bald Eagle, 1; Marsh Hawk, 2; Osprey, 15; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 58; Clapper Rail, 29; Virginia Rail, 1; Sora Rail, 4; Common Gallinule, 5; Am. Coot, 9; Am. Oystercatcher, 35; Semipalmated Plover, 35; Piping Plover, 1; Am. Golden Plover, 1; Black-bellied Plover, 88; Common Snipe, 2; Willet, 149; Greater Yellowlegs, 67; Lesser Yellowlegs, 25; White-rumped Sandpiper, 1; Dunlin, 80; Short-billed Dowitcher, 75; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 20; Western Sandpiper, 1; Sanderling, 15; Herring Gull, 191; Ring-billed Gull, 238; Laughing Gull, 7; Gull-billed Tern, 4; Forster's Tern, 4; Common Tern, 9; Least Tern, 119; Royal Tern, 3; Caspian Tern, 3; Black Skimmer, 32; Mourning Dove, 140; Screech Owl, 2; Barred Owl, 1; Common Nighthawk, 1; Chimney Swift, 33; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 3; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 46; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 51; Red-headed Woodpecker, 11; Hairy Woodpecker, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 17; Red-cockaded Woodpecker, 10; Eastern Kingbird, 11; Great Crested Flycatcher, 9; Acadian Flycatcher, 1; Tree Swallow, 29; Rough-winged Swallow, 5; Barn Swallow, 68; Purple Martin, 165; Blue Jay, 120; Common Crow, 65; Fish Crow, 26; Carolina Chickadee, 34; Tufted Titmouse, 133; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 36; House

(Continued on p. 56)

Barn Swallow-ing and My experience in locating their nests

Mary Keller Wintyen

The Barn Swallow, as we know it in North Carolina, is considered mainly a transient, yet, in the 1942 edition of the *Birds of North Carolina*, about eight or ten breeding records were listed. Since then, I am sure there have been many more breeding records reported.

To add to the list, I am giving my observations of these Swallows over a two year period, culminating this month, in not only locating their nests but also getting a close up view of same, and my personal experience in so doing.

These Swallows have in years past been seen in April and of course listed as migrants, but on April 26th of 1958, in company with another birder, I happened to go over a bridge, which spans Little River, on the old Southern Pines-Carthage road, not more than eight miles from Southern Pines, observing at that time, about 15 to 20 Barn Swallows flying around and under the bridge. We kept track of these birds from time to time, and had a feeling if they were transients, surely they would have been on their way North by May or June, so they must be nesting, but where? The land along the road and for miles around is known as Little River Farm, where up from the bridge about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, on a rise are stables and many other buildings. The question arose, were these Swallows nesting in the barns and just feeding around the bridge, or did they actually have nests under the bridge? Unfortunately that year I was unable to follow through for the answer.

When April of 1959 came around, we drove to the bridge many times, and on April 13th saw about twenty more or less Barn Swallows flying around and going half way under the bridge and then sailing out. Repeating this performance over and over, I felt positive they were building nests, so to eliminate the 'nesting in the barn' idea, I drove to Little River Farm and talked to the manager, who said, they did not have any birds nesting in their stables or buildings this year or any previous years, so that definitely pointed to the bridge as their nesting site. We observed all during May, and the more I saw of them, just going in one side of the bridge and out, but not flying straight through, the more determined I was to satisfy an old maid's curiosity as to what they were doing there. By some ways or means I must get under that bridge,—but how, was another question.

The day arrived, when I no longer could control that itch, so on June 15th, about 4:30, with borrowed men's heavy knee boots, a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, 3 foot pipe (protection against snakes), large flashlight, camera, binoculars, I landed at the bridge, alone. Being alone I did not relish, but my birding friends were not available.

Parked my car off the highway about 25 feet from the bridge, climbed in the back seat and proceeded to get into the boots which I had to put on over my shoes, or I would have lost them in the water. Donned my gear and with pipe beat the grass for snakes as down the highway bank I slid. Walked the 25 feet to the stream over dried out mud flats, then again adjusted the strappings of my gear and stepped gingerly into the water, not knowing how far down I would sink. The water was not too high, yet the heavy boots seemed to pull me down and it was all I could do to pull one foot up, take a step and keep my balance, but I made it to the bridge and under I sloshed. All this time I had not sighted a Swallow near. The first nest I beheld was one, on an upright beam, in the shape of a half cone, straw or grass

sticking out the bottom and what looked like feathers out the top. I poked these feathers with the pipe and the feathers disappeared, so decided that young were in that nest. Then, on supports running horizontally were cup shaped nests. All these nests were too high for me to see inside. I counted four nests and no doubt there were more but hidden from my sight by the beams. I also noticed many mud blotches on the beams, left by old nests which had been no doubt washed away some time or other, and I felt sure that the Barn Swallows had also nested there in 1958. I wanted desperately to go under the other section of the bridge, where I had seen many swallows fly in and out, and knew I would find more nests, but the water was coming mighty close to the top of my boots and by now it was all I could do to lift my booted feet. Also the water was stirred up by this time, and I was afraid to venture where I could not see the stream bed. With all the gear, alas, I had forgotten my camera flash, so was unable to get a picture of any nest, my only regret.

As I said before there was not a sign of a Swallow around but when I started under the bridge, you never heard such a noise. First thought, they were going to land on my old visor cap, but they stayed in the clear, thank goodness, just weaving and darting, all the time uttering their harsh, "ee-tee" cries. With great effort, I made the bank. While getting my breath, tried to snap some pictures. As I walked back over the mud flats, I watched the Swallows flying once more in and out under the bridge, seemingly just as relieved over the episode as I.

Although quite an exhausting experience, yet to me very rewarding, for this day, my question of two years was answered. So the Barn Swallows at Little River bridge will be linked in my memory of other seasons and years yet to come.

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Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 57; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 3; Mockingbird, 210; Catbird, 8; Brown Thrasher, 38; Robin, 1; Wood Thrush, 11; Hermit Thrush, 3; Eastern Bluebird, 34; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 30; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 31; Loggerhead Shrike, 17; Starling, 155; White-eyed Vireo, 101; Yellow-throated Vireo, 36; Red-eyed Vireo, 82; Black-and-white Warbler, 1; Prothonotary Warbler, 39; Swainson's Warbler, 2; Orange-crowned Warbler, 1; Parula Warbler, 170; Yellow Warbler, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 186; Black-throated Green Warbler, 2; Yellow-throated Warbler, 117; Pine Warbler, 30; Prairie Warbler, 123; Palm Warbler, 3; Ovenbird, 1; Louisiana Waterthrush, 1; Kentucky Warbler, 2; Yellowthroat, 42; Yellow-breasted Chat, 1; Hooded Warbler, 39; House Sparrow, 176; Eastern Meadowlark, 221; Redwinged Blackbird, 1415; Orchard Oriole, 9; Boat-tailed Grackle, 296; Common Grackle, 93; Brown-headed Cowbird, 3; Summer Tanager, 8; Cardinal, 202; Blue Grosbeak, 2; Painted Bunting, 4; Dickcissel, 1; Am. Goldfinch, 37; Rufous-sided Towhee, 222; Savannah Sparrow, 205; Grasshopper Sparrow, 2; Sharp-tailed Sparrow, 5; Seaside Sparrow, 15; Vesper Sparrow, 5; Bachman's Sparrow, 38; Slate-colored Junco, 2; Chipping Sparrow, 101; Field Sparrow, 23; White-throated Sparrow, 365; Swamp Sparrow, 69; Song Sparrow, 6. **Total species, 148; individuals, 7601.** (The Golden Plover was present from Apr. 1 through Apr. 30—see June *Chat*. The Dickcissel, a male, was seen again Apr. 18 by the Appleberrys and the Latimers). Katherine Alexander, Cecil Appleberry, Edna Appleberry (compiler), Mary Baker, Dot Earle, John Irvine, H. G. Latimer, Jr., Greg Massey, Polly Mebane, George Mitchell, Pete Roberts, Marie Vander Schalie. (Wilmington Natural Science Club).



BACKYARD BIRDING

We are delighted to have the following from Mrs. Conderman, telling how they raised a baby Cardinal:

On the hot afternoon of August 18, 1959, my husband was sitting in the yard holding out his hand for birds to come and feed. He noticed an almost naked and scrawny fledgling laboring across the grass toward the shop. Fearing it would get tangled in the water pump, he picked it up and put it back in the yard. He sat there all afternoon, expecting the parent birds to claim the baby. At dusk, we brought the weak and squeaky little creature into the house. By brooding it in our hands and putting tiny bits of cookie (a mixture I have made for years of bread, fat, grease and peanut butter, and upon which most all species of our birds have fed their babies) on the end of a toothpick the fledgling would open that great yellow mouth and swallow the pellets placed deep in the cavern. After two or three bits, she would contentedly close her eyes and lay her head down on our thumb. This went on far into the first night, until we put the bird into a box lined with soft muslin and placed this on top of the water heater. About daylight, as she began stirring around, a lusty squeak emerged from the box. The following morning, after a few feedings and after the grass had dried off, we placed the bird in the yard near the feeder with the expectations that the parents would claim it. After this day, we were convinced that the baby was an orphan. So my husband made a small box, opened at the top, with a round perch inside which "Squeaky" (our name for her) soon recognized as her own property.

We figured the fledgling should have a little liquid, so a drop or two of warm milk was dropped from a medicine dropper into the yawning mouth and she immediately showed a response. Thereafter, when she saw the medicine dropper she would quiver and squeak like a normal baby bird. Soon tiny wing feathers began to grow and the body was covered with a heavy down, except under the wings, which remained bare for several weeks. With the aid of the heavy bill and the pinkish tinge to the feathers, we finally identified the fledgling as a Cardinal.

The box on top of the water heater soon became too warm for the bird, so we cut a branch with several prongs which would stand about three feet high. This was moved from room to room and into the yard, and proved to be much to her liking. She would climb out on the branches and hop from one to another, squeaking her way about and seeming to enjoy life to the fullest!

Squeaky soon formed the idea that she had to be with us. After her lunch we would put her on her perch in the kitchen, then retire to the bedroom for our own rest. When we awoke and started talking, we would hear the approaching squeaks and the tiny feet hopping along the floor towards our room. My husband would reach down his hand and the baby would hop upon it to be raised to his chest. This little afternoon session

with us she seemed to love. Here she would preen her tiny wing feathers as she reached up back of her wing. This habit of reaching back of her wing to preen and scratch broke the wing feathers off almost as fast as she grew them. This led us to believe she was not getting the right food to grow strong feathers. So we wrote the Audubon Society for suggestions. However, we did not get much new information, so continued feeding the cookie mixture, hard boiled egg yolks, canary seeds, finely chopped sunflower and walnut meats, cuttlebone and a tiny bit of grit. One of the delicacies the baby bird loved best of all was the small grubs my husband would find in the black walnuts he cracked each day for the birds and squirrels. One day I found a can of old peanuts which was full of tiny worms. I would allow Squeaky several at a feeding, but she soon learned to recognize that can from the other feed cans, and would spend much of her time pecking around the edges of it. Of course, I would weaken, and she would receive extra worms occasionally!

By this time, our bird could fly about a bit, and would spend all the time allowed her on our shoulders or the top of our heads, thus becoming quite a nuisance. However, it never ceased to amuse us, and we loved her little chatter. As she grew stronger and became more restless, we would open the window and let her outside among the birds and shrubbery. After an hour or two, one had but to call "Squeaky!" and listen . . . soon a little stubbed-tailed, two-feather crested Cardinal with broken wing feathers would answer and fly to you. Each day now found her outside more and more, but her wings were not strong enough to permit her to remain through the night, even though each night she was more reluctant to come in.

October came, and we desired to attend the Charleston Field Trip. We did not wish to ask the neighbors, who feed our birds and squirrels while we are away, to do the time consuming job of baby-sitting a bird. So a bird cage was borrowed, and we began teaching Squeaky to use it. How she disliked that prison! So a small box that hang on the back of the car seat was built with a perch and a tray to hold the grain, grubs, cuttlebone, etc. We thought the young bird would sleep most of the way to Charleston, but she never closed her eyes, but looked curiously from side to side like a puppy would. It was on this trip down, while perched on my shoulder that I first detected little faltering musical notes, as if she were trying to sing and practice the different cardinal calls. To our surprise, she did not inconvenience us at all, and seemed to thoroughly enjoy all the attention she received on the Field Trip.

A couple of nights after we returned home, we decided she should stay out and become acclimated to the weather before the chilly nights set in. So we did not call her to us, and as darkness came and the group of cardinals among which she was feeding took off, she disappeared with them. Her first night out was one of great concern, for a storm came up and the winds blew a gale. The next morning, Squeaky was at our window, dry as a bone, and calling impatiently to be let in for her breakfast.

Each day now, she was becoming more independent and no longer cared to be held or have her head scratched, and seemed to have accepted the fact that she was a bird and not a human. However, she did come to the window feeder and accept food from our outstretched hand.

In December, came the big snow. When we awoke on that particular morning, poor Squeaky was trying to perch on the snow covered window sill, calling to be let in. She did not hesitate to come into the house when the window was opened and flew straight to the top of my head. After eating her fill, she became restless and wanted out again. This went on all during the day. The second day, she sought warmth and food only a few times. As time went on, we saw less and less of her, as she extended her range. Now a beautiful young female with a lovely crest and in full plumage, we are unable to tell her from the other cardinals.

This experience was most interesting, rewarding and informative.—
MRS. FRED D. CONDERMAN, *New Bern, N. C.*

Mr. Norwood wanted me to tell you about the Crested Flycatchers I had nesting in my Flicker box. At first, I found it hard to believe that I had a Crested Flycatcher in my box, but I did! When they had two eggs in the nest, a bunch of Starlings chased them out and destroyed the nest. I guess that available nesting holes were not common, so they built again in the same box. Again the Starlings tore the nest up, and this time they didn't come back. I was sorry to see them go, as they are interesting birds to watch (Someone has called them the "clowns" of the bird world!—*Dept. Editor*) and I missed a possible chance of taking some color slides of them.

Here is a list of the bird nests I have found on our lot and in the neighboring territory, 54 in all: Robin, 8; Mockingbird, 4; Cardinal, 7; Starling, 9; Bluebird, 3; Carolina Wren, 3; Blue Jay, 2; Towhee, 2; Brown Thrasher, 2; Red-eyed Vireo, 1; Chickadee, 1; Wood Thrush, 3; Flicker, 4; Great-Crested Flycatcher, 3; Phoebe, 1; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 1.—FRANK RAMSEY, *Charlotte, N. C., July 1, 1959.*

Cardinal Tragedy in North Carolina.—Early this May, a pair of Cardinals built their nest in a small cedar tree at the back of our property, about one half a mile from the city limits of Charlotte. In their first clutch were three eggs, and after approximately twelve days they hatched. I watched these young for several days and then some predator—presumably a cat—tore the nest down and ate the young.

The pair was not discouraged and they built again about five or six feet from the ground in a small tree. Here again they had three eggs in the clutch. Twelve or thirteen days later the eggs hatched. During the next few days we had some very rainy weather and one exceptionally heavy thunderstorm, which presumably drowned two of the young in the nest. We removed these, leaving one in the nest. It was almost starved, as the parent birds would not come to the nest as long as its siblings were lying dead in the nest. After the dead ones were removed, the parents resumed feeding the remaining bird. This fledgling was banded by Mr. William L. Anderson, Jr. It was found dead in the nest the following morning. The Cardinals' second attempt to raise a family was foiled by the forces of nature.

The determined pair built again not thirty-five feet from the site of the first nest in a small bush about four feet from the ground. This time they had three eggs again, and when they hatched, three young. Everything seemed against these birds, and a few days the young mysteriously disappeared.

These Cardinals were not to be discouraged. They built again about seven feet from the ground in a small tree. This nest was not twenty yards from their first nest. Again the Cardinals had three eggs. When these hatched, the three young lived for a few days, then died. My guess as to the cause of death was the terrific heat. From 1:30 to 2:30 each day the sun was shining directly on the nest.

Right now as I write this letter, the male of the species is singing his territorial song at the top of his voice outside our back door. Maybe this tragedy-torn pair will decide to try again. Maybe this time they will succeed in raising a brood of young Cardinals. Later I will write you of their actions.—FRANK RAMSEY (age 13) *1918 Wilmount Rd., Charlotte 8, N. C.*

Whiteness in Birds—Abnormally white birds attract attention. They are usually called albinos but they, in fact, rarely are. We can define an albino as an animal lacking any pigmentation in the skin and the structures (hair, feathers, etc.) derived from the skin. Hence the iris and retina are without included pigment other than that of the blood. Albinos are common enough in domesticated rodents, not too rare in man, but unknown in the domestic cat.

Without being too technical it can be said that whiteness can have several causes. The amount of pigment in the feathers may be greatly reduced. Gulls show various stages from the Great Blackback through the white-winged gulls to the Ivory Gull. Notice that the characteristic wing pattern is retained as long as there is some color. Further, the eye is an independent



Mrs. Norwood's
Robin

center of pigmentation in most birds. It is important also to note that the yellow and red pigments of the skin of gulls are chemically different from the blackish pigment in the feathers.

Taking birds as a whole we find certainly three and possibly more chemically different classes of pigments in the feathers and two different physical causes of coloration. It seems certain that each of these five or more causes of color is subject to independent modification. Perhaps no more than three of these occur in any one species. The possibilities are nearly endless. The numerous color varieties of the familiar Budgerigar all come from changes in the relative and absolute quantities of three causes of color.

Aside from changes affecting the whole feather coat we find spotting, often white. This reaches an extreme in pigeons where there is separate hereditary control of the pigmentation of each quill feather. The tiger breed has its quills alternating dark and white. The frequent asymmetry of the white in such birds as Mrs. Norwood's robin suggests extensive white spotting.

Finally, injury or disease may destroy the pigment-forming cells, at least locally, resulting in white spots.—CHARLES H. BLAKE.

In answer to one of the questions in the June *Chat*, Mrs. E. C. Winslow of Tarboro, N. C. wrote in: "This is to report that for three consecutive summers a Brown Thrasher has nested and hatched at least one brood

in an elaeagnus bush at the corner of the porch at my home. This year almost as soon as the first clutch of eggs was hatched, they began building another nest in the same bush. I am not able to say that the nest has been finished. I have noticed that sometimes they will start a nest, then apparently leave it, then come back later to finish it and use it for their eggs and young."

Mrs. G. E. Charles of Aynor, S. C. writes that a brood of Brown Thrashers flew from a nest in a big ligustrum bush at her home about two weeks ago (July 6). Now the female is brooding on a nest in a holly tree in her daughter's yard, next door. The nest is twenty feet above ground. This is a height record!

I learned long ago the futility of saying a bird or birds *never* did a certain thing. But at least we can say, "Well, hardly ever!"

This morning, a letter came from Mrs. Pinckney King from Hartsville, S. C., saying that the Western Tanager had remained a visitor at her feeders until April 21 when it as well as the Baltimore Orioles left. She sent a color snapshot made with a Brownie camera, and though small, the red on his head and the wide white wing bar can be clearly seen. This is a most interesting bird, and it is well worth a trip to see him, and his friends, the orioles. Let us hope that he will return this winter.—A. R. FAVER, *Dept. Editor, Eastover S. C. July 17, 1959.*

A Sin Against Our Scenery

I think that I shall never see, A billboard lovely as a tree.

Perhaps, unless the billboards fall, I'll never see a tree at all.

Thank you, Ogden Nash.

But no thanks to the House Roads Committee that slew a bill to protect North Carolina's part of the Interstate Highway System from disfigurement by a hedge of billboards.

The vote chucks \$800,000 of extra federal assistance into the gutter, but billboard lobbyists ask, "So what?" They say it preserves the constitutional right of landowners to use their land to suit themselves—suit themselves by raking in a few pennies in return for erection of monster signs to hide the countryside, befuddle drivers, tell passersby where they can get greasy meals and what kind of pills to take to cure the stomach distress that follows.

Speaking of turned stomachs, this sort of vote brings them on.

This editorial from the *Raleigh News and Observer* for May 29, 1959 is reprinted by permission.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION.—As part of a study of the shorebird population on the Florida Gulf coast, a large number of short-billed dowitchers, semipalmated plovers, dunlins, and lesser numbers of other waders were trapped, banded and color-dyed in spring, 1959. Birds caught in May were dyed a vivid golden color which is known to have remained unaltered after at least one month on a dowitcher. Birds trapped in June were dyed scarlet, though dyed birds seen two weeks later were only pinkish in hue. All birds dyed were presumed to be in northward migration. Other colors will be used in the fall, 1959.

It is earnestly requested that anyone observing such colored shorebirds please communicate promptly with the undersigned, stating color, species, and date and location of observation.—HORACE LOFTIN, *Dept. of Biological Sciences, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.*



GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. B. Chamberlain, Robert A. Norris, Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

Eared Grebe at Charleston, S. C.—On January 13, 1959, Walter Dawn reported an Eared Grebe (*Podiceps caspicus*) in the City Yacht Basin at Charleston. It was taken for the Charleston Museum collection by Director E. Milby Burton on Jan. 14. It is an immature bird. The stomach was filled with the remains of fish and shrimp. This is the first state record for South Carolina for this western form. The identification has been confirmed by Eugene Eisenmann of the American Museum of Natural History.—E. BURNHAM CHAMBERLAIN, *Charleston, S. C.*

Tropic-bird off the South Carolina Coast.—"At 11 o'clock on the morning of May 29, while aboard the minesweeper USS AGILE for Naval Reserve training duty, I observed a White-tailed Tropic-bird, 18 nautical miles SSE from the Charleston sea buoy. I was able to scrutinize the bird closely for several minutes, since the ship was hove to at the time, and I was equipped with the standard Navy 7x50 watch officers' binoculars. Visibility was excellent, and the bird at one point flew by at eye level (35-foot bridge) and within half a ship's length (about 80 feet)." The foregoing from a letter from PETER MANIGAULT of Charleston to E. Burnham Chamberlain. This constitutes the third state record. A specimen was secured, July 30, 1926 in Oconee County and another, Oct. 16, 1954, in Dillon County. See *The Chat*, 23:34—*Dept. Ed.*

Ward's Great Blue Heron Near Raleigh, N. C.—During the afternoon of January 23, 1959, Robert L. Soots, James F. Parnell and the author saw a Ward's Great Blue Heron, *Ardea h. wardi*, feeding in a shallow farm pond near Lake Wheeler, approximately 10 miles southwest of Raleigh.

The author has been engaged in a study of the winter birds of the Raleigh region for the past three years. The winter ranges of the few resident Great Blue Herons were well mapped and therefore this was not only known to be a newly arrived bird on the study area, but the first heron of any species to be seen in this particular pond. The author is familiar with Ward's Heron in Georgia and on the Gulf Coast and recognized it immediately as this pale subspecies. The sun was directly behind us and the bird was watched for thirty minutes at a distance of about fifty yards. All of us were using 8x binoculars and all diagnostic characters were verified.

This heron appeared much larger than the resident birds, but since the measurements of *herodias* and *wardi* are known to overlap and the bird was alone, size alone was not indicative. However, the forehead, throat, and sides of the head were white, with the black on the sides of the crown

and occiput much reduced; the underparts were also predominantly white, and back, wings, and tail were dark pearl gray, much paler than in the resident birds. The greenish legs were seen clearly from all angles and this color was checked carefully a number of times.

This pond was checked daily but the heron was not seen again until January 28, when all characters were again verified after having been checked on study skins in the N. C. State College collections. Although Burleigh (*Georgia Birds*, p. 100) remarked that this heron is less wary and more easily approached than the Great Blue Heron, this bird was exceedingly wary. Since it fed in a pond in the middle of a grazed pasture, attempts to collect it made on both occasions proved futile. Although this pond was visited a number of times each week for the next month, it was not seen again.

This seems to be the first record of Ward's Heron in North Carolina. It normally does not occur as far up the coast as Charleston, S. C. at any season (B. R. Chamberlain, pers. comm.), and winters in the Gulf Coast States. This record is therefore not only highly unusual as to geographical location but even more so on a seasonal basis. This subspecies should therefore be relegated to the State hypothetical list as an accidental until a specimen is actually collected.—JOHN B. FUNDERBURG, *N. C. State College, Raleigh, N. C.*

Expansion of Cattle Egret Nesting in North Carolina in 1959.—The Cattle Egret has undergone a rather marked expansion of nesting populations in North Carolina in 1959. In each of the past three summers—1956, 1957, 1958—two pairs of this emigrant species have nested in the Southport heron rookery, on Battery Island; careful search in these same years revealed no other nesting locations in the State (T. L. Quay and J. B. Funderburg, Jr. 1958. "The Cattle Egret in North Carolina." *The Raven* 29: 115-117.).

Funderburg examined the Southport rookery in detail on June 10, 1959. He counted at least 14 adult Cattle Egrets present at one time, so estimated a minimum of 7 nests. The nests were well within the rookery and in the same section as in 1956-58. There were 20 or more half-grown young, all out of nest and clambering around in the trees and shrubs but still not able to fly from branch to branch. The whole colony numbered about 450 pairs (a 25% increase over the average of recent years) and seven species, including about 20 pairs of nesting Glossy Ibises.

The Beaufort rookery was studied for several hours by Quay on June 9, 1959. The overall colony size and composition was the same as for the past several years—about 190 adult nesting pairs of the five common species and two pairs of Glossy Ibises, plus Cattle Egrets for the first time. Eight adult Cattle Egrets were counted at one time, in one small area but thoroughly intermingled with the other species. The Cattle Egrets moved in and out of the thicket vegetation frequently, but the nests could be only poorly seen; the yaupon, greenbrier, and poison ivy were very dense and the nest sites about 8'-10' high. No young Cattle Egrets were seen, but an estimate of at least four and possibly more nests was made.

James Parnell, a graduate student in zoology at N. C. State College, sent us word from Pea Island on July 14, that there has been adult Cattle Egret in the vicinity of the rookery there this summer, for the first time in the breeding season, but apparently no nesting pairs.—T. L. QUAY AND JOHN B. FUNDERBURG, JR., *N. C. State College, July 15, 1959.*

A Mallard Nesting Record for South Carolina.—The following interesting account, sent to us by the author, is a copy of his letter of April 27, 1959 to E. Milby Burton, Director of the Charleston Museum, for the museum files:

In late November (1958) we had a very serious 2,500 acre fire in the flat woods area characterized by good stands of loblolly pine interspersed with low lying areas containing mostly yellow poplar and black gum. In marking the fire damaged timber two weeks ago, the crew flushed a duck off a nest on a small hammock in one of the temporary ponds. This area is

two miles north and four miles east of the Savannah River in Aiken County, S. C. I went up to get some pictures, flushed the duck off the nest and found it to be a female Mallard. The nest contained twelve eggs as shown in the colored slide which I am forwarding to you.

Since nesting records have not been verified in the state according to *South Carolina Bird Life*, I went up with Dr. Eugene P. Odum yesterday afternoon for verification. The bird flushed rather wildly off the nest knocking one of the eggs down a gentle incline into the water. I waded out to recover the egg and restored it to the nest and found it in the process of hatching. Several other eggs were in this condition with pencil size or larger holes in the shell and young ducks cheeping. After getting several more pictures, we left the area but decided to come back early the next morning.

About 8:30 on April 24, one of the men and I approached the nest which appeared to be considerably disturbed and no sign of the hen Mallard or the young. One young duckling was decapitated beside the nest, and all eggs had hatched. From the tracks a marauding bobcat had disturbed the Mallard hen but had only managed to get this one young. From the condition of the bleeding, we apparently disturbed the cat in further attempts on the hen and her brood. While taking more pictures the hen Mallard started clucking across the pond, some 50 or 60 feet away, and we could see that she had a number of the young ducks with her, but we could not get an exact count. In getting across the pond we lost sight of her and she apparently hid the ducklings and herself successfully in the heavy growth of cane and briars. However at the edge of the pond there were two additional dead ducklings, not disturbed, but showing signs that they were not completely dry when forced to take to the water by the wildcat. It appeared that they got chilled and succumbed right at the edge of the pond on some dry cane twigs. Additional pictures were secured of these ducklings.—JOHN B. HATCHER, *Forest Manager, A.E.C., Aiken, S. C.*

European Quail.—We note in *Wildlife in North Carolina* for June, 1959, a report by John C. Oberheu that Joe A. Stevens killed a banded European Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) near Snow Hill, Greene Co., N. C. on Dec. 6, 1958. R. H. Cross Jr., Chief of the Division of Game, Virginia, stated that the bird was released in New Kent Co., Va. in the fall of 1958. Mr. Cross informs me that Virginia ceased work with this quail last spring. This particular bird had migrated about SSW some 130 miles.

The European Quail is about two-thirds the size of a Bob-white and has a distinct cream-colored stripe through the center of the crown. The throat is partly black in males. The various races of this species breed over most of Europe, Asia, and Africa. In winter European birds migrate to the Mediterranean Basin, even crossing that sea. This quail has never been successfully introduced in this country, partly because some populations migrate southeastward.—CHARLES H. BLAKE, *Hillsboro, N. C.*

Indication of Coot Nesting in S. C.—For a number of years it has been believed by oologists and ornithologists that the American Coot nests in South Carolina. Yet, despite concentrated efforts on the part of several persons at various times, the nest and eggs have escaped detection.

Today we are closer to definite proof because of the tireless vigilance of Ted Beckett of Magnolia Gardens, near Charleston. The owners of the gardens began construction of an 100-acre duck pond on the Ashley River in late 1957. A circular dike was thrown up but the pond itself had very little water until Mar. 5, 1959, when a 4.27 inch rainfall occurred.

Several weeks later Mr. Beckett noted about 50 pairs of Coot in the pond. Pied-billed Grebes and Florida Gallinules also appeared. He began a systematic search of the pond, shoving his aluminum boat through the open water and the tangled salt marsh grass, for the nest of the Coot. He found young Coot with adults. The Coots were very quiet compared with the noisy Grebes and Gallinules.

Finally, after days of searching, two nests which Beckett believed to be Coot nests, were found. The Grebes and Gallinules had not begun to build.

Then, on May 9, he found, near one of the nests, an egg shell which he brought to me for identification. It was the egg of a Coot. The shell was intact except for a portion of one end and side, which appeared to be the exit breach made by the hatching young. The water in the pond when the egg was found, contained about 12,000 parts of salt per million.

So, nest and eggs of the Coot have yet to be found but there is strong hope for success next year.—ERNEST CUTTS, *Charleston, S. C.*

Long-billed Curlew on the Coast.—On the 17th of May, 1959, my wife and I observed a Long-billed Curlew on Pawley's Island (13 miles) north of Georgetown, S. C. The next day we saw two more at Wrightsville Beach, near Wilmington, N. C.—ROBERT C. DACOSTA, JR., *Englewood, N. J., May 26, 1959.*

Ruff on Upper North Carolina Coast.—On March 21, 1959, H. A. Hespensheide, F. C. Richardson, W. F. Rountrey, and I observed a Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) on the mud flats by the Knotts Island causeway in Currituck County, N. C., within one mile of the Virginia state line. The bird was carefully studied with 7 x 35 and 10 x 50 binoculars for about 30 minutes or more from 50 to 100 yards. The Ruff was in association with a small number of Lesser Yellowlegs, giving good comparison of the two species. The motion of the head and body of the Ruff resembled the movements of the Ruddy Turnstone.

The head, neck, and body of the Ruff were chunkier than those of the Lesser Yellowlegs. The head was white mottled with brown. A brown marking on each side of the head just behind the eye was very distinct. There was what appeared to be a white band going completely around the neck. The back was brown and the belly white. There were faint brownish markings on the breast. The bill was heavier than the bill of the Lesser Yellowlegs. The bill was dark in color, except for the yellow portion right at the base. The legs of the Ruff were a little darker than those of the Lesser Yellowlegs. In flight, a white patch on each side of the dark tail was carefully noted.—PAUL W. SYKES, JR., *1522 Lafayette Blvd., Norfolk 9, Va. Mar. 27, 1959.* (Subsequent correspondence with Mr. Sykes and Mr. Rountrey added the following: "The mud flats in the Knotts Island marsh were created by the Snow Geese grazing on the marsh vegetation and completely removing the plant growth above ground in large scattered areas throughout the marsh. The water in Back Bay is considered fresh or brackish." "From all indications the Ruff was changing to breeding plumage and was not mistaken for other shore birds with similar markings. This is the second record for the general area. Another bird was observed in Princess Anne County (Va.) several years past.")

Mr. Sykes and his party are quite familiar with the shore birds of our coast and all agree as to the identity of the bird in question.

Prior to this, the sole record of a Ruff in North Carolina as far as we know, is recorded in the *Auk*, IX, July 1892. There, H. H. Brimley describes his experience near Raleigh, May 6, 1892: "I was wading in a fresh water marsh not more than a mile from town, after marsh birds in general, and while I was struggling through the mud, water, and cat-tails, a Sandpiper passed behind me. It had apparently flushed from a patch of bare mud about twenty yards from where I then was, and I at once set it down as a Lesser Yellowlegs, both from its size and flight. It uttered no cry. After circling around the further edges of the marsh, it turned and headed, straight as an arrow, to where I crouched, so that when shot it fell into the water within reach of where I stood. I identified it as a Ruff, and, to make sure, it was sent to Mr. Robert Ridgway who promptly confirmed the identity. The bird was in fair condition, somewhat below the average of our spring shore-birds in this respect, but not by any means poor. . . ."—For additional reference to the Sykes observation see *Audubon Field Notes*, 13, p. 282.—*Dept. Ed.*)

Glaucous Gull at Oregon Inlet.—An immature Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) was seen sitting on a piling on the north shore of Oregon Inlet (Dare Co., N. C.) on February 22, 1959, by C. W. Brinkley, H. W.

Scheld, and myself. An adult Herring Gull was sitting on a piling nearby, giving us excellent comparison of the two species. The immature gull was white, as were the wings, head, and tail. The feet were pink. The bill was pink with a dark tip and was larger and heavier than the bill of the Herring Gull. The eye was dark. We approached the bird to a distance of about 40 feet before it flew.—PAUL W. SYKES, JR., 1522 Lafayette Blvd., Norfolk 9, Va. (It seems likely that this bird remained where Sykes found it for some months and that it is the individual noted in the following paragraph of a letter dated May 3, addressed to Aaron Bagg by E. Alexander Bergstrom of West Hartford, Connecticut:

"We did have one Glaucous Gull at Oregon Inlet on Apr. 22, at close range, perched. Identified by impression of size (no direct comparison), bill heavy and long, wingtips not protruding beyond tip of tail. The bird was in excellent plumage—pure white except for a few light brown feather tips on the breast and side. The species apparently has occurred there before, but only occasionally. I recall one near Corpus Christi, Texas, ten years ago. For the record, I have seen a good many of this, Iceland and Kumlien's in the northeast."—Dept. Ed.).

Common Tern: Behavior.—I saw a very interesting thing while banding at an island breeding colony near Cape Lookout, June 20, 1959. A Wilson's Plover, while attempting to lead one of our party away from its nest by the usual "broken wing" ruse, was dive-bombed by a Common Tern. The act seemed to follow the familiar pattern of chickens and wild birds in attacking wounded birds.—J. W. E. JOYNER, *Rocky Mount, N. C.*

Sooty Terns at Cape Lookout, N. C.—June 21, 1959: Just returned from Harker's Island where John Thompson and I banded quite an assortment of birds, but this letter is prompted by my desire to report on a pair of Sooty Terns observed, June 10 on one of the islands near Cape Lookout (Carteret County, N. C.). These birds, by their actions, gave every indication of nesting, but we were not sure which nest, if any, belonged to them. We were not able to stick around long enough to pin it down. They hovered over us, power dived at us and squalled at us for quite a while as we worked around among nests and young of mostly Common Terns. There were also more than last year's pair of Gull-billed Terns around, but again we were not sure of their nests—or young, if any. I would guess there must have been 3 or 4 pairs of Gull-billed Terns. Many of the young terns were almost ready to fly, others were just hatching.

July 10, 1959: On July 4, on our annual banding trip, John Thompson, Harry Davis, John Grey (Williamsburg Va.) and I found the pair of Sooty Terns still active at the island near Cape Lookout.—These birds were not quite as active in "defending" their nest? as they seemed to be when John and I first found them 10 days before. However they did hover nearby for some fair movies despite the overcast. Gull-billed Terns seemed to be trying to fight them off, while other terns left them alone. Sorry we can't prove they were nesting, but it's still a most unusual record.—J. W. E. (BILL) JOYNER, *Rocky Mount, N. C.* (This is unquestionably an unusual record even though proof of nesting was not established. Sooty Terns heretofore have been known in North Carolina as victims of hurricanes, and nearly all have been picked up well inland.—Dept. Ed.).

Barred Owl Fishing.—The following is taken from a letter dated July, 1959: Last week I saw a Barred Owl plunge feet first into the creek next to my house, in 3 to 4 feet of water and stay there for perhaps a minute. It then worked its way to shore by flapping its wings, climbed out on a log, rested for a few minutes, then flew off. It had something in its claws which I could not identify. I never saw that sight before and I'd raise my eyebrows if someone told me this.—SAM SWEENEY, 206 South Front St., New Bern, N. C. (See the March '54 *Chat* for a similar account in which the Barred Owl carried off a 5 inch fish.—Dept. Ed.).

Saw-whet Owl, Peregrine Falcon, Chimney Swift at Mount Mitchell — The only record of the Saw-whet Owl's occurrence at Mount Mitchell known to me was published by Simpson in 1957 (*Chat* 21: 89-90), based upon the

hearing of this bird's very characteristic song. On the night of May 18, 1959, I observed a Saw-whet Owl in the light of a flashlight at a distance of less than ten feet. It was perched near the top of a 30-40 foot Fraser fir, on the outside of the tree's crown, and was singing continuously for a period of at least an hour. I was able to climb to a nearby fir and observe it for some time without its flying. Conversation with Smith Ray, Park Superintendent, and other park personnel indicates that this species is heard near the summit of Mount Mitchell almost every year throughout the spring months. The owl was heard again June 4 and June 16. It is evidently resident through the breeding season.

On May 19, 1959, a single Peregrine Falcon (probably a male) was seen flying low over the road between Stepp's Gap and the park restaurant. On the same day, a flock of 20-30 Chimney Swifts were seen flying in the vicinity of the park restaurant, at an elevation of about 6,200 feet above sea level.

It is of interest that neither the owl nor the peregrine was noted by Burleigh (*Auk* 58:334-345) in his work at Mount Mitchell during the period 1930-1934, while Chimney Swifts were seen but once (May 23, 1930). Brewster, in 1886, found peregrines to be rather common in the general area (*Auk* 3:94-112).—DAVID A. ADAMS, *Chief Park Naturalist*, N. C. *Division of State Parks, Raleigh, N. C.*

Gray Kingbird in the North Carolina Piedmont.—During the early afternoon of April 16, 1959, the junior author was engaged in research on a squirrel management project in William B. Umstead State Park, Wake County, N. C. A tremendous wave of migrating warblers, vireos, and other small land birds had arrived in the park during the previous night, and the research was soon shelved in favor of bird-watching.

In the middle of the afternoon an unfamiliar call drew his attention to a "shrike-like" bird on a low branch in a sparsely wooded ravine. Upon approaching the bird, it was seen to be a kingbird, but one which was unfamiliar to him. It was very tame and he watched it until dark observing its actions and field marks in great detail. When he arrived back in Raleigh, the bird was described to the senior author. After he had enumerated the field marks: heavy bill, notched tail without a white terminal band, grayish underparts, and the habit of jerking the tail when it called, he was shown Peterson's plate with the picture of a Gray Kingbird and immediately identified it as the bird he had seen. The authors were at the spot where the bird was last seen at daybreak the next morning but not only was the kingbird gone but the whole migration wave had moved on during the night and the woods were barren of birds.

The Gray Kingbird is essentially a Florida bird, straggling up the coast as far north as Charleston (Sprunt and Chamberlain, *South Carolina Bird Life*, 1949) and showing a decided partiality for open country in the vicinity of water (Burleigh, *Georgia Birds*). The first record for North Carolina was at least four birds present in Southport from June 28 to August 23, 1957 (*Chat* 21 (4):92, 1957). It was present in Southport again in 1958 and one was seen there May 29, 1959, by a group including John Irvine, Jr. Eugene Odum and Robert Norris reported a bird of this species in the interior of South Carolina in November, 1956 (*Chat* 21 (2):45, 1957) and remarked that its occurrence there was quite unusual on both seasonal and regional bases. The occurrence of this bird near Raleigh is not as unusual on a seasonal basis but seems even more so on a regional and ecological basis since this bird was found in an extensive tract of mature upland oak-hickory climax forest. It was almost certainly a casual migrant which had missed its way and was traveling with the wave of migrating birds with which it was found.—JOHN B. FUNDERBURG AND ROBERT L. SOOTS, *N. C. State College, Raleigh, N. C.*

Bobolink Breeding at North Wilkesboro, N. C.—On June 21, 1959, on the Yadkin meadows, near the airport, I observed a male and female Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*). This was late for migration for I noted migrating Bobolinks at Lenoir, N. C., on May 2 and 3. In the same location at North

Wilkesboro on June 2, 1959, I saw the female Bobolink with two young, off the nest. I watched the birds for several minutes at fairly close range through 7X binoculars to make sure that they were not Dickcissels although the latter have not been found breeding here.

During my six years in North Wilkesboro I have never seen the Bobolink during spring migration although I have always noted flocks passing over or pausing to feed in the fall. Usually these flocks have been small, but once I counted 125 in a feeding flock.

On June 5, 1958, I observed a male Bobolink at Deep Gap (20 miles west of North Wilkesboro, in Watauga County) but had no time to look for a possible breeding pair.

The fifth edition of *The A. O. U. Check-List of North American Birds* gives the southern limit of the breeding range of the Bobolink as "northern West Virginia (south in the mountains to Greenbrier), and western Maryland." Apparently this is the first breeding record for North Carolina.—WENDELL P. SMITH, *North Wilkesboro, N. C., July 1, 1959.*

Cowbirds Breeding at Chapel Hill.—The morning of June 20, 1959, we visited some nests found by WBS. A Prairie Warbler's nest contained one egg of the warbler and one Cowbird egg. A few days before it held two warbler eggs. CHB is familiar with Cowbird eggs in the northeast. A nest of the Yellow-breasted Chat held a young Chat, a young Cowbird, and two Chat eggs. The contrast in the two young was striking. The Chat was quite naked and rather yellowish while the Cowbird was larger, slightly pink, and clothed in long, pale gray down. The Chat is unique among our warblers in lacking natal down. Subsequent visits to the Prairie Warbler's nest indicated it had been abandoned. When the Chat's nest was visited on June 27 it held two young—a young Cowbird and a young Chat. They left the nest on June 28.—WILEY B. SANDERS and CHARLES H. BLAKE, *Chapel Hill and Hillsboro, North Carolina, July 2, 1959.*

Dickcissel Again at Charlotte.—On Jan. 16, 1959, I saw, on the gravel drive in my yard in Charlotte, N. C., a bird whose sleek appearance and behavior—unlike the House Sparrow—caused me to take a close look with my binoculars. It was associated with House Sparrows, Doves and Starlings. I saw the yellow on the throat, the stripe over the eye and the chestnut at the bend of the wing and knew it to be a female Dickcissel. I watched it at several other locations in the yard on the 16th, but did not see it again after that date. On February 4, however, I saw a male Dickcissel in the maple tree opposite my window and had a good look at him before he flew away.—MRS. E. J. PRESSER, *217 S. Laurel Ave., Charlotte, N. C. May 28, 1959.*

Briefs for the Files.

Cattle Egret, 1 at Coburg (Charleston) Jan. 3, 6, and 14, 1959—temp. Jan. 3 was 33°, E. B. Chamberlain. • Least Bittern, adult male present most of summer, at pond near Eastover, S. C., watched at very close range, July 16, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Faver • Wood Ibis, 4 at Coburg, June 3, 1 there, June 17, E. B. Chamberlain. • Bald Eagle, 1 immature, Eastover, Apr. 22, Mrs. Clyde Sisson. • Sora, 1, Wilmington, Apr. 7, Mrs. Dot Earle; 1, Old Town farm (Rocky Mount), May 7, Bill Joyner • Am. Coot, 6 watched at East Cherry Grove Beach Wildlife Refuge, Horry Co., S. C., July 2-6, no nest found, Nicky Lovin. • Black-bellied Plover, 1, Elbridges sand pit, Rocky Mount, May 23, a rare find, inland, Bill Joyner. • Black-necked Stilt, 2 in cultivated rice field at Savannah Refuge, May 9, at least 1 present, June 3, a first record for the refuge, E. O. Mellinger. • Chimney Swifts reached North Wilkesboro, Apr. 7, Wendell P. Smith. • Eastern Phoebe, only 1 adult seen this spring, at Hillsboro, Apr. 8. A juvenile Phoebe was found there, June 6, Charles H. Blake. • Horned Lark, 1, 5 miles west of Burlington on US 70 (Alamance Co.), CHB. • Tree Swallow, 10, Apr. 21, Hillsboro, CHB. • Barn Swallow, noted in its poorest flight in years at Rocky Mount, Bill Joyner. • Bewick's Wren, 1 banded in yard at Hillsboro, Sept. 23, 1958. • Wood Thrush, singing and calling, Nov. 17, 1958,

near Enfield, Halifax County, N. C., Thomas Street. • Swainson's Warbler, 1, Barnwell County, S. C., Apr. 9, John B. Hatcher; another singing at Savannah Refuge, Apr. 12, E. O. Mellinger. • Bachman's Warbler, 1 male, back, Apr. 22 in same spot where it was found last year, across the Ashley River from Charleston, remained at least until May 16. First found this season by J. E. Cavanagh, watched by scores—including this Dept. Ed., remained until May 16. E. B. Chamberlain. • Orange-crowned Warbler, 2, Apr. 21, Outer Banks near Buxton, N. C., E. Alexander Bergstrom. • Northern Waterthrush, 1, Coburg (Charleston), singing, Apr. 21-24, E. B. Chamberlain. • Baltimore Oriole, a 3rd (?) year male at feed tray, Jan. 5 and 10, Charleston, Ann W. Richardson. • Scarlet Tanager, 1 male, Eastover, May 6, Mrs. W. H. Faver. • Dickcissel, 1, first record for North Wilkesboro, Apr. 9, Wendell P. Smith. • White-crowned Sparrow, 2 immature birds seen in Salisbury, N. C., Mar. 29, Joseph R. Norwood; 1 at Wilmington, Apr. 18, Greg Massey; 1 at Old Town farm, Rocky Mount, May 6—a first local record there, Bill Joyner.

All dates 1959 except as noted.

Fundamentals of Ornithology. Josselyn Van Tyne and Andrew J. Berger. John Wiley & Sons, xi + 624 pp., 254 fig., 1959, \$12.50.

The perfect and all-inclusive text book of ornithology will doubtless never be written. However, I believe the present book will answer more questions well than any other I have seen. What are not covered are just the subjects on which our information is most defective, microscopic anatomy and certain large sections of physiology. The anatomical material and much of the valuable glossary are rather slanted toward the structures used in technical diagnoses of higher groups, say, in Ridgway's *Birds of North and Middle America*. That this aim of comprehending these technical statements appears to be met is no mean accomplishment.

Other comments on the anatomical sections may be in order. The description of the nervous system is so peppered with unexplained technical terms as to be fully comprehensible only by a specialist. The figure of the interlock of barbules in a feather (p. 30) is, I believe, the first correct one published since 1887. The brief discussion of coloration is better than average but marred by the insertion of three paragraphs on aberrancies in the middle of the description of structural color. The remarks on the latter largely follow the literature and are somewhat unsatisfactory. This reflects the deficient information on physical optics all too common among zoologists. Flight is also, largely, an anatomical matter. Here the authors rely largely on Savile's 1957 paper. Even if Savile and the reviewer do not agree at all points, his paper is the most generally satisfactory source.

The climax of the book is a chapter of 170-odd pages giving a page of concentrated information on each of the 168 families of living birds recognized by the authors. Quite naturally there will be disagreement over the limits of some families. This reviewer believes further coalescence of the song-bird families to be desirable. A more disturbing defect is that in the statements of range no indication of the distribution of the bulk of the species is given. For example, the 63 wrens comprise one Holarctic (Winter Wren) and 62 New World species; the babblers (as defined) have one in western Europe, one in Western North America, and 280 in or near the Old World Tropics. These are very non-uniform distributions to which there is no clue in the stated ranges. The cardueline finches (goldfinches, purple finches, evening grosbeaks, etc.) are placed in the weaver family (*Ploceidae*) but the weaver finches and the weaver birds, contrary to the most recent work, are retained as one family.

On the whole this book seems to be the best balanced world view of birds in English. It is not written down to its potential audience. One peculiarity likely to prove unwise is that the illustrations (and they are quite uni-

(Continued on page 72)



EDITORIAL

News, Reviews, Announcements

Authors, Members, Letters

Items of Interest

A considerable number of organizations are interested in conservation. Most of these bodies are specialists concerned with the tactics of some particular aspect of conservation. Too often they are largely unaware of what other organizations are doing. Conservation involves broad principles and the strategy for putting them into effect and the tactics to deal with specific situations. It seems to me that in the Carolinas we need some way in which the several organizations which have a common interest in conservation can come together and exchange ideas and information and at the same time strengthen the strategic approach. In some states this has been done by the formation of a Conservation Council on which are represented the non-governmental organizations whose interests are essentially at least statewide. Each such organization appoints a delegate and one or more alternates to the Council. There may be modest dues of a few dollars a year. A great deal can be accomplished by well selected committees reporting to monthly meetings of the Council. Representatives of state or federal agencies or other persons may be invited to address the group. The question period afterward can be more important than the formal address.

Personally, I would suggest that North and South Carolina should have separate Councils even if some societies might adhere to both. In North Carolina we can immediately think of some obvious candidates for membership: The Carolina Bird Club, the Wildflower Society, the Federation of Garden Clubs, the State League of Women Voters, the Federation of Women's Clubs, the Soil Conservation Society chapter, the State Grange, the North Carolina Wildlife Federation. The order in the list is immaterial. Doubtless there are others that should be added. A parallel list could be made for South Carolina.

Undeniably an organization such as the one here proposed will be more effective if it does something more than just talk about conservation. One activity could well enlist the interest of most of the potential components. We should know what needs conserving and where it is. I am thinking not only of the habitats of endangered plants or animals, but as well of typical and adequate samples of natural habitats such as fresh and salt marshes, river bottom forest, etc. Furthermore, consideration should be given to places of great natural beauty or unique geological structure.

Finally a conservation council might have played a decisive part in the matter of billboards along the Interstate Highway System, as noticed elsewhere in this issue of *The Chat*. In fact, there are no foreseeable limits to the beneficial influence of such a group.—C. H. BLAKE.

Proposed CBC Field Trips 1959-60

October—Fall Field Trip—Morehead City, N. C.

January—Winter Field Trip—Little River, S. C.

May—Spring Field Trip—High Hampton Inn, Cashiers, N. C.

The Ecology of Invasions by Animals and Plants. Charles S. Elton. John Wiley & Sons, 181 pp. 102 illus. 1958. \$5.25.

Certainly many zoologists of the reviewer's generation had their first glimpses of the significance and fascination of ecology from Elton's *Animal Ecology* published over 30 years ago. Not the least of its virtues was clarity. In the present work he has with the same clarity given us what may prove to be the best statement for conservation yet made.

The book starts with seven rather modern case histories of invasions in which the invader eventually showed a population explosion. The outcomes have varied. *Anopheles gambiae* has been essentially extirpated from South America but the chestnut blight almost completely destroyed its new and unadapted host. From a discussion of A. R. Wallace's classic zoogeographic realms, he concludes that the characteristic animal life of each is but the stabilized present day result of many invasions and extinctions over a long period of time. In the long run it may make little difference whether the barriers to a species' spread are eliminated by geological events or man intervenes as a passive or active carrier. Certainly the rate of invasion has been enormously accelerated by man and at the same time he has often made population explosions more likely. Elton sees no reason to suppose, in spite of quarantines and eradication campaigns, that invasions will cease. Some invaders, however, do fail to become established, or do so only very locally. Such organisms meet with *ecologic resistance*, a term which is mostly a name for our ignorance of what really happens to them.

All invasions alter the pattern of food chains and in so doing may upset the balance of populations. Sometimes counterpests will redress the balance. He quotes Aldo Leopold to the effect that the stability of a biotic community depends on its integrity. On this basis the non-economic animals and plants play a vital role. Both theoretically and practically we can show that the simpler the community the more liable it is to disturbance of balance even in the absence of man's interference. *Per contra*, there is much evidence that complex communities offer the greatest resistance to the invader.

Elton's view is that conservation of the variety normally present in nature is not alone the right relation between man and nature and an opportunity for richer experience but the promoter of ecological stability. His last chapter is on "the conservation of variety." This means the provision of reserves, small or large, both for the preservation of particular species or habitats as well as wild land to provide a general reserve of variety. He stresses the value to Britain of its roadsides and hedgerows. Of the latter there are some 190,000 miles which among other values provide one-fifth of the timber harvested in the country. Such habitat interspersation is a partial antidote to the evils of pure stand culture. We may also point out Elton's views on massive doses of insecticides. They are sometimes selectively poisonous to the wrong insects or, by cutting out competition, allow some other pest to flourish. In ways not fully understood they tend to depress the productivity of the plants they supposedly protect. At least one way insecticides may do this is by killing the minute animals and plants on which the health of the soil depends.

In Elton's book we have a most valuable new look at ecology and conservation put persuasively.—C. H. BLAKE



The two latest additions to the "Peterson Field Guide Series", published by Houghton, Mifflin Company, measure up to the high standard set by earlier volumes. *A Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs* by George A. Petrides (1958) includes many species whose main range is south of Virginia. The arrangement of the 68 plates serves as a key for identification. Emphasis is placed on relatively permanent structures, such as bark, buds, leaf scars, and pith.

The twelfth volume, Roger Conant's *A Field Guide to Reptiles and Am-*

phibians (1958), covers eastern North America. Nearly all species and subspecies are shown in color and there are 248 range maps. The originals of the colored figures were prepared by an excellent but rarely used process. Each volume is priced at \$3.95.—C. H. BLAKE

(Continued from page 69)

formly excellent) are separately numbered in each chapter and cannot be cited independently of chapter or page. The bibliographies are extensive and valuable.—C. H. BLAKE.

NEST RECORDS

Understanding the action of the environment upon any species requires many facts of many kinds. Some of these facts can only be obtained through the medium of delicate and complex instrumentation. Others, fortunately, may be learned by the careful application of our unaided senses. The nesting habits of birds fall mostly into this second category.

The most important factor in the survival of any species is its production of young during the reproductive span allotted it. This means actual reproduction of young not merely potential production of eggs. The human female has a potential of some 300 eggs. It is undeniably fortunate that no more than two or three per cent of these result in babies. On the other hand, we may conclude from James Fisher's work on the Fulmar that the species maintains itself if half the potential eggs produce young which in turn live to breed at least four times. In terms of eggs the reproductive potential seems high but in terms of population replacement the potential is very low. It takes a pair on the average with fifty per cent mortality of young up to breeding age (it must really be somewhat higher) four years of breeding to replace itself. The other extreme in birds is represented by the Black-capped Chickadee, and doubtless the Carolina Chickadee, which must, practically, produce two young that live to breed in each breeding season beginning the summer after its own fledging. This says, to a close approximation, that a Fulmar will live to breed four times but a Black-capped Chickadee only once.

What does this mean to the bird-watcher? Just this, the number of eggs laid, the number hatched, and the number of young fledged cannot be discovered from a few nests observed in the course of a season. These facts, however, can be learned if bird-watchers will contribute to a central file the essential data on the nests they do observe. This is most easily accomplished by recording on a standard form the essential data for each nest, even if the data is incomplete in some respects. Ultimately some one can take these records and analyze them. If they cover a reasonable span of time and space, the picture of reproduction in a particular species will be quite complete. At present the writer has a supply of record cards which are available to interested observers. It is expected that the records will be deposited in the Library of the University of North Carolina, where they will be available to bird students.—CHARLES H. BLAKE, *Hillsboro, N. C.*

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Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, chiefly in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

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Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	\$1.00	Contributing	\$25.00
Supporting	\$5.00	Affiliated Club	\$2.00
Life—\$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)			

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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Cover Photo—"After a thunderstorm, this Cattle Egret assumed a statuesque pose at its nesting site on Drum Island, S. C." We are indebted to Walter Dawn for the use of this copyrighted photograph by him.

The Chat

THE AMATEUR AND THE STUDY OF BIRD BEHAVIOR

BY ANDREW J. MEYERRIECKS

In the autumn of 1956, I gave a series of lectures on "Animal Behavior" at the Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, South Lincoln, Massachusetts, and the same series was repeated at the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary in the autumn of 1957. During the course of the lectures, the majority of those in attendance expressed a keen desire to make behavioral observations worthy of publication. The two questions most frequently asked of me were, "What should I look for?" and "How can I tell if I have made a worth-while observation?". This article is written with the express purpose of suggesting some possible lines of amateur research, "back yard" investigations requiring little or no equipment but a great deal of patient, careful observation.

The average amateur too often feels that behavioral research requires a minimum of two or more university degrees, government financing, and tons of elaborate equipment. This may be true for some highly specialized areas of research, but I suggest that an amateur who owns a binocular, a notebook, and a pencil, and who can *accurately* tell his local bird species apart can make worthwhile observations. In fact, the amateur often forgets, or is not aware of the fact that most of what we know about the life histories of North American birds was contributed by amateurs! Pick up any volume of Bent's *Life Histories of North American Birds* and note the bulk of contributions by amateurs. The important, five-volume *Handbook of British Birds* is largely the product of amateur co-operation. However, these amateurs progressed rapidly from the "static" field identification stage, from the mere accumulation of occurrence records, to the "dynamic" stage of recording activities, to me a much more rewarding and useful type of field ornithology. I hasten to add, however, that observations, behavioral or otherwise, in which there is a shade of doubt as to the species in question are next to worthless.

Maintenance Activities

Here I am using the term "maintenance activities" in a general sense so as to include behavior involved in the care of the body surface, i.e., preening, bathing, dusting, "sunning," and related activities.

Preening. Many amateurs might assume that preening, an activity which is indulged in so frequently by birds, is well known for most species because it is so common. However, complete descriptions of the movements employed during a preening "bout" are scarce, even for our most common species. Some feathers are merely nibbled, others are carefully drawn for their full length through the tips of the bird's bill, while others are merely flicked up and down. How does a robin use these different methods while preening, or does it use all of them? How does a crossbill preen its plumage? In what sequence does a blue jay preen its various feather tracts? Does it always begin with one feather unit, say the primaries, or does



Photo by the author.

Immature Great White Heron, Preening in its Nest

the sequence depend upon the bird's previous activities? Threat displays, fights, bathing, dusting, and the like disarrange various feathers—is there any uniform sequence of feather care after one of these activities? If a bird is interrupted during a preening bout, yet remains perched, does it renew its preening where it left off? Since so many birds depend upon flight in order to escape an actual or potential predator, one would expect that its flight feathers would be cared for first—is this true?

How frequently do birds preen throughout the day? Are there any particular periods devoted to such activities? How frequently, and at what times during preening, do birds which have a functional preen gland press oil from this structure? How and where is the oil applied? Do oiling movements differ from preening ones?

Studies of preening are important for a complete behavioral knowledge of any species, not only for the sake of a complete "behavior catalogue," but also because under certain conditions of stress birds may suddenly preen their plumage in a strange, incomplete, or "half-hearted" manner. Indeed, they may make preening movements, or what appear to be such, but they may not touch their feathers! Hence a thorough knowledge of typical preening behavior is essential in order to detect and to understand the aberrant forms.

Head scratching. Years ago the famous German ornithologist Oskar Heinroth published an important paper on head scratching in vertebrates. Heinroth found out that birds scratch their heads in one of two ways: either by simply raising one leg and scratching the head directly without moving the wing (green heron, pers. obs.), or else they dropped one wing, then brought the leg up *over* and behind the dropped wing in an indirect manner (blue jay, pers. obs.). Most of the Passerine birds use the indirect method, with wing drooped, but exact descriptions are wanting for most North American species. How does a purple sandpiper scratch?

Head scratching may seem rather trivial at first glance, but if two species are considered to be closely related on structural grounds, a difference in the manner in which they scratch their heads may be the very clue which leads to a detailed study. Such a closer investigation, utilizing both structural and behavioral characters, might lead to a revision of our ideas concerning the relationship of the two forms in question. In other words, no behavioral character, regardless of what we may think about its importance at first glance, should be "sold short."

Now that you have seen what needs to be done with such common activities as preening, you can think of similar questions and problems with respect to other maintenance activities. Here are just a few as starters: What species plunge into the water when bathing? What species use rain-soaked vegetation for their bath? Do immatures of social species wait for the adults to finish their dust bath, or is it "first come, first served"?

Feeding Activities

The requirements for a detailed investigation of the complete diet of any bird species are so specialized that I shall dispense with this aspect of bird feeding behavior with the admonition that casual records of food choices are usually of little value. However, many aspects of bird feeding behavior are readily accessible of observation without prior training or special equipment. Such problems as feeding techniques, frequency of feeding, "preparation" of foods, etc., are fruitful and fascinating fields for amateur research.

Feeding techniques. Herons have superb fish-catching equipment, but how hard do they have to work for their supper? I once watched a green heron fishing for 87 minutes; during this time, the bird made 39 strikes,

only one of which resulted in the capture of prey. However, on another occasion, a green heron I was observing made 5 successful strikes out of 12 tries, during a feeding period of 29 minutes. Some heron species are locally common, so here is an opportunity for exact quantitative measurement of hunting success. How many hoverings of a sparrow hawk end in drops to the ground? How many drops result in captured prey?

The stoop of the peregrine falcon is a spectacular, justly famous performance, but these fine birds also hunt in other ways. I once saw a peregrine falcon capture a starling in a manner I had never seen before: the falcon flew very rapidly just above the posts of a fence which ran out into a field. Perched on the last post in the fence line was a starling, busy preening itself. Just prior to the strike, the falcon simply dropped one foot and neatly picked the starling from its perch. In a recent number of the *Wilson Bulletin* (1957:184), I described the remarkable social behavior of a flock of cedar waxwings as they successfully eluded the attacks of a Cooper's hawk by adroit "bunching" and scattering whenever the hawk made a pass. How many species besides the starling show this behavior when pressed by a predator?

Little is known about the manner in which many birds prepare their food prior to consumption, and the problem of feeding frequency remains unanswered for a host of species, including many "garden" kinds. What species have you observed caching food stores? Do any other species wait for the food storer to depart, then rob the cache? Are there any intra- and interspecific fights over these hidden stores? These are but a few of the many questions awaiting answers by interested amateurs.

Hostile and Sexual Displays

The songs and calls of birds, the bizarre crests, colors, and other adornments found in many species, their unusual posturings etc. have intrigued naturalists for centuries. Many answers as to the function and evolution of such structures and displays have been forthcoming in recent years but *careful, detailed* descriptions of breeding season displays are still wanting for many species. Such descriptions are necessary, not only to round out our knowledge of the life history of each species, but also because of the generalizations about the causation, function, and evolution of behavior are based on observations of a limited number of species.

Hostile behavior. Most of the fighting seen in birds occurs intraspecifically, i.e., between individuals of the same species. In addition, the vast majority of hostile encounters involve breeding season disputes, fighting over territories, nest sites, etc. However, detailed observations can and should be made on fighting at back yard feeding trays. Is any one species "top dog" at the tray? That is, does one species always supplant all other kinds of birds when it arrives to feed? Does this dominance depend upon the location of the tray, the size of the bird, individual aggressiveness, or what? How do the threat displays of an individual vary in intensity from mere turning toward the "opponent" to full feathers up, wings extended, and harsh calls? When threatening a rival of another species, does the "actor" use the same displays as it would toward an opponent of its own species? Any sexual differences in hostile behavior? Some birds only permit the close approach of another individual up to a certain distance, called "individual

distance" by the English ornithologist P. J. Conder. What is the "individual distance" for your local species? Does it vary under different circumstances? How do birds which mate in order to rear a brood "get around" the individual distance problem? These are but a few of the host of fascinating problems involved in the study of bird hostile behavior, and interested amateurs can make significant contributions to all phases of this important branch of bird biology.

Sexual behavior. The "courtship" of birds has been intensively and extensively studied for years, yet accurate descriptions of the various movements of the displaying bird have yet to be recorded for many North American birds. The amateur interested in this aspect of bird display should be forewarned that, once you start an intensive investigation of the courtship patterns of any bird species, the very fascination of the study will use up all of your leisure time! Again, as with all aspects of bird behavior, read the suggested references on sexual behavior listed at the end of this article before you begin. Territory, pair formation, courtship, and related activities are complex problems and you should not start "cold."

Are there any signs of sexual activity prior to the "normal" breeding season, say during brief warm periods in late winter? Can you pin down the environmental factors responsible? When do the males start to sing? Is there any daily and seasonal rhythmicity? If two or more closely related species breed in your area, what structural, behavioral, and ecological characters keep them from interbreeding? How about differences in breeding seasons, songs, displays, etc.?

Very little is known about daily activity cycles, even for our most common birds, so the amateur need not range far afield in search of a suitable subject for such research. If you have the time, observe your birds for one hour in the morning, at noon, and again in the evening, noting everything the bird does and how many times you saw each activity. How much time was spent singing, fighting, preening, feeding, etc.? Is there any behavior which is markedly restricted to specific periods of the day? You can add a hundred questions to those already posed. After you finish your reading "assignments," you will be in a much better position to evaluate our current knowledge of the sexual behavior of birds.

Reading and Writing

I must emphasize that if you are sincerely interested in making worthwhile contributions to the study of bird behavior, you must read *at least* the references suggested below. Not all of us are within walking distance of a well-stocked reference library, so I have tried to include as many useful, inexpensive paperback editions as possible. You might begin your reading with Hickey's *Guide to Bird Watching* or Fisher's *Watching Birds*, then turn to Lack's *Life of the Robin* to see what has been found out about a common European species. An elementary, but useful, introduction to bird biology is Tinbergen's *Bird Life*, and this same author's *The Herring Gull's World* is an excellent, lucid introduction to the world of bird behavior. You can carry the remainder of your reading just as far as you wish.

If you think you have made a unique or otherwise interesting observation, turn to the section on the species in question in your local State bird

book, if one is available for your area. You might try Bent's *Life Histories* next, but remember that this useful series remains unfinished, and many of the early volumes are somewhat out-of-date. Look through the indexes, yearly in many cases, of the more important bird periodicals, such as the *Auk*, *Wilson Bulletin*, etc. You will probably run across a good life history study of your species and then you will be in a much better position to evaluate your observation. When you decide that you should publish, write your note or paper in the style recommended by the journal you have selected as a possible publication source. Be brief, be accurate, and if a sketch would save lengthy description, by all means include it. Follow the editor's suggestions as to tables, photos, etc.; such information is to be found usually on the inside cover of the journal.

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Reprinted by permission from the March, 1958, *Bulletin of the Massachusetts Audubon Society*. The author has been a Junior Fellow of Harvard College and Assistant Director of the Hatheway School of Conservation, Lincoln, Mass. He is especially interested in the comparative behavior of herons.

— CBC —

The fall field trip at Morehead City was a memorable one. It was a regional undertaking. Fred Conderman as commander-in-chief rallied not only the members in Morehead City and Beaufort but in New Bern as well. Three land routes were arranged, with guides and leaders, for the car-borne contingent. We were given the use of a commodious boat for trips, morning and afternoon, through the sounds. Judging by the paeans heard afterward your reporter concludes it was a real error on his part not to have signed up for a boat trip. The two best birds were probably Purple Sandpiper and Cattle Egret.—CHB.

The next annual meeting will be in Greensboro, N. C. in March, 1960. Headquarters will be the King Cotton Hotel.

The spring field trip will be at Cashiers, N. C.

— o —

Please note B. R. Chamberlain's new address (through 31 March, 1960):
1110 East Worthington Ave., Charlotte 3, N. C.

Prophecy: This should be a big winter for Evening Grosbeaks.

BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH—A SECOND BROOD

JOSEPH AND REBEKAH NORWOOD

Although much has been said about the nesting of the Brown-headed Nuthatch in *The Chat* for the past several years, perhaps a note about their 1959 activities will be of interest since observations this year confirm that this bird apparently usually has a second brood. Nesting took place in our backyard in southeastern Charlotte in a box $2\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{4} \times 8$ inches; this approximates the size of the nuthatch's natural cavity (Chat 23:1,1959), with the exception of the length which was 2" larger. There were no natural sites available in the immediate neighborhood this year.

This bird, an early nester, was seen inspecting the box on February 24 and engaging in a courtship display (wing quivering) on the following day. This continued periodically until March 9 when one was seen carrying material to the box. Nest-building continued, and on the night of March 17 an inspection of the box showed the pair to be roosting in it. Four eggs were seen on March 20, and seven on March 23. At about 6 p. m. on March 31 when the box was opened, the female was incubating and refused to flush. On April 7 an adult was seen going to the box with food, and four nestlings were noted upon inspection of the box on April 9. There was no sign of the other three eggs. On April 23 the four young birds, ready to leave the box, were banded by William Anderson, of Charlotte, one of the few times, we understand, that Brown-headed Nuthatches have been banded. They all left the box the following day.

On May 2 an inspection of the box revealed additional pine seed wings on top of the old nest; and on May 11 six eggs were seen. The number hatched was again four, the date being May 23; the nestlings fledged on either June 10 or 11. A fledgling nuthatch was found dead in the yard on June 12, possibly the victim of a marauding jay which had earlier destroyed a Bluebird nestling in the Shuford Peelers' yard. This is some indication of the apparently high mortality rate among young birds. The most banded birds we have seen at one time have been two out of the original four (they were banded on the left leg for easy identification). Since then five birds, probably from both broods, are all we have seen at once. The parent birds have not been too much in evidence. Contrary to observations in 1956, when the young from the first brood hung around the box while the second brood was in progress, the young of this first brood were seen only infrequently.

Both nests this year were composed of the usual material of pine seed wings, cedar bark strips, etc. (Chat 20:74,1956); however, no foundation material of pine twigs was needed or used due to the size of the cavity.

This, of the eight Brown-headed Nuthatches which resulted from 13 eggs in two clutches, one met death almost immediately, five possibly still survive at this date, and the fate of two is unknown. This is a fascinating little bird to study, and those who live in or near pine woods will find it most rewarding to put up a box of the proper dimensions, mounted on about a five-foot pole and not later than the first week in February. However, if a natural site is available, it has been our experience that the Brownheaded Nuthatch will shun the man-made box for it.

(Our box did triple duty, too, in that a pair of House Wrens successfully raised a brood after the nuthatches were through with the box. The wrens placed a few pine twigs on top of both old nuthatch nests and began their activities very shortly after the last nuthatch departed since four wren eggs were seen on June 20.).

September 9, 1959



BACKYARD BIRDING

Letters to this department are always interesting:

Warwick, Virginia
August 24, 1959

Dear Mrs. Faver,

In response to your request in the June 1959 *Chat*, I found a Brown Thrasher nest containing eggs in a red cedar near Williamsburg, Virginia. The nest was approximately two and one-half feet from the ground. I cannot recall another incident (of a Thrasher nesting in an evergreen bush or tree) possibly because I had never thought about it.

I believe that a study of the use of trees and shrubs by nesting birds would be most interesting.

Sincerely,

J. B. Sledge, Jr.

* * *

Tarboro, N. C.
August 24, 1959

Dear Mrs. Faver,

Let me tell you one thing (about my birds) of which I am not very proud, but it is unusual. It happened several winters ago. I have a nice window feeder with glass top at my north bedroom window and try to keep it stocked in winter with seeds, suet and other tidbits that the birds seem to like. One day I put out some cooked prunes that had been left over from our table for a few days and were slightly fermented. I thought nothing of that. Soon I noticed a nuthatch making frequent trips to the prunes and eating heartily of them. Finally, he waddled to the rod at the edge of the feeder and sat there, staggering from side to side; his eyes even rolled. I called my daughter to see him and we finally realized that he was completely drunk! He sat there for several minutes then flew off toward his home, but instead of flying upward, he lost altitude and finally landed on the ground. I was so ashamed to have treated him that way. I immediately took the prunes out of the feeder and put them in the garbage. The next morning when the nuthatch came back to the feeder he had to eat suet and sunflower seed. My daughter told me I had contributed to the delinquency of the nuthatch!

Sincerely,

Margaret D. Winslow
(Mrs. E. C. Winslow)

During the first part of November, 1958, I was driving down a country road half a mile from my home in Castle Hayne, N. C., to walk my dog in some fallow fields. A commotion in the road ahead drew my attention and I stopped the car just short of it, in time to note three things: a falcon flying away to my left; an object in the road by which it had been standing, obviously about to eat; and a Loggerhead Shrike flying frantically in tight circles around the scene. Trying to note all these happenings at once, and being particularly eager to identify the object on the pavement before it might get away, I did not positively identify the hawk. As I jumped out of the car I looked again for the falcon only to find it flying off into the sun, a hopeless position for identification. The impression that had first formed in my mind, although I could recall no particular feature, was that the falcon was a Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk). This species can be found daily along that stretch of road through the fall and winter.

The object in the road proved to be a Mourning Dove, lying on its back. The bird was alive when I picked it up, and since there was little likelihood of the falcon returning, and much likelihood that a nearby cat would soon seize it, I carried it into the car. I was forced, by my beagle's frantic efforts to play retriever, to hold the dove in my left hand in the far corner of the car to the left of the steering wheel and to steer with my right hand, fending off the dog with my elbows and shoulders. I am sure that the scene would have appeared quite ridiculous, had anyone been there to see!

When I reached the field, I put my dog out on leash, and as soon as her attention was diverted from the dove I was carrying by a fresh rabbit track, I cautiously set the dove on the ground right side up. The bird's heart had been beating hard and rapidly, and its body seemed unusually hot to the touch. Unhappily, the bird fell over on its side, unable to open its wings or even stand.

At this point I must confess to mixed emotions. I was sorry to deprive the falcon, which belongs to my favorite subfamily of birds, of its lunch. But I was delighted at the prospect of dove for breakfast (and out of season, at that!), a rare event in our house. When I reached home I prepared the bird for eating. Interesting enough, I could find but one tear in the skin, located below the shoulder on the upper breast, apparently torn by the falcon's beak as it had begun to devour the dove. Upon reflection, I concluded that the falcon had probably knocked the bird out of the sky, either by stooping on it and knocking the breath out of its body, or by overtaking it and clubbing it with its heavy fist. It appeared that the bird had broken some vertebrae, perhaps as it hit the pavement. The dove seemed to be from the most recent brood, although fully grown and with fully-developed wing and tail surfaces, as it still had pins at the base of some feathers. In the crop were eleven fresh grains of corn, and other kernels that had begun to break down. Perhaps the bird was slowed down by all that food, but I doubt it.

I marveled that a Kestrel would be able to catch as fast a bird as a Mourning Dove on the wing, and wondered if I had been mistaken in my initial impression and had seen a Merlin (Pigeon Hawk) instead. When I related the incident to the farmer who owned the field, he told me that on several occasions he had watched a Kestrel fly from its perch in a tree and overtake a Common Snipe that he had flushed from a swampy spot with his tractor. If a Kestrel can haul down a snipe from a standing start it seems feasible to assume that it is capable of overtaking a Mourning Dove. I have no explanation for the odd behavior of the shrike, except that these birds seem to stake out winter territories along this road, almost always

being seen in the same spots day after day. The hawk had struck down the dove right under this shrike's usual perch. The shrike seemed to be making no effort to attack or annoy the falcon. The only thing I could think of was "jealousy", but I doubt the wisdom of attributing such emotions to birds in November.—JOHN M. IRVINE, JR., *Castle Hayne, N. C.*

Most woodpeckers are just that—woodpeckers. And *as a rule*, they abide by the "Common Laws of Woodpeckering." But there is one Red-bellied Woodpecker I know that has a drop or two of flycatcher blood within its veins.

Last spring (1959) I was studying the feeding habits of a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers that have nested in the same tree for the past three years. As usual the male Red-belly was given the task of supporting his family by means of insect matter he collected from adjacent trees. But this male was of the "lazy-man" type and I soon spotted him carefully pecking the limb above the entrance hole to his nest. Each time the bird pecked the limb an insect flew out in a zig-zag fashion. Seeing this the Red-belly would spring from his perch and capture the insect, take it to the nest, and feed his picid family. The Red-belly caught several insects in this unwoodpecker-like manner.

I have also noticed other species of birds, besides the flycatchers, catching insects in mid-air. Once I saw a Cardinal engulf a pine seed as it floated to the ground.

Maybe you've seen these comical actions. If not, be on the lookout—you have an exciting treat awaiting you!—NICK LOVIN, *Rockingham, N. C.*, *July 25, 1959.*

Dr. Blake and I have become interested in the Cardinals that are bald-headed, having lost their crests for various reasons. He wrote that within the periods of June 1 to September 30, in 1957 and 1958, he had banded forty adult cardinals. Of these, four males and two females were bald. There is evidence that two males and a female later regained their head feathers. However, one male still bald was seen by Dr. Blake on February 20, 1959. That brings up the question of why these birds are bald. The technical statement would be that the shedding of a feather does not always stimulate its follicle to produce a replacement feather immediately. A more amusing aspect of the matter is that the exposed skin of a bald-head acquires a strong suntan. The normal skin color is a somewhat brunette flesh color, but with no feathers to protect it, the area turns almost black.

I have noticed this dark colored crown in the case of our Cardinal that comes to the kitchen window to feed. This bird had been scalped by a passing car, as he flew across the highway in front of our home in March 1957. He came to the feeder that evening, all bleeding and bedraggled, and I do believe he managed to survive because he had the ever ready supply of food. I remember this particularly well because our two granddaughters were living with us then, and they wanted me to catch the cardinal and put a band-aid on him! He recovered fully, with the exception of his crest, and now comes daily to our feeder. As Dr. Blake noted, his bald spot is sunburned almost black.

We would like to know if anyone else has seen bald headed Cardinals, and just how many are males? Also whether or not these birds recovered their crests, or like the one here, had been scalped. Does it seem likely that the bird recovers these feathers that form the crest unless some injury has

(Continued on page 90)



GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. B. Chamberlain, Robert A. Norris, Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

Audubon's Shearwater Near Wilmington.—On July 28, 1959, Maurice Barnhill, John Irvine and I saw an Audubon's Shearwater flapping and sailing over the surf at Rich Inlet, New Hanover County. The bird appeared to be about the same size as nearby Gull-billed Terns and was white below and uniformly dark brown above. Its bill was small and black, and there was no suggestion of a lighter patch at the base of the tail. We observed it for about four minutes at distances of around 150 feet through binoculars ranging up to ten power and through a twenty power scope.—GREG MASSEY, *Wilmington, N. C., Sept., 1959.*

(While this is a very rare bird along our beaches, it is not uncommon off-shore. Upward of seventy were studied during July 29 and 30, 1952, by Henry Rankin, Jr., one to two miles out from Morehead City. Chat, 16:24.—*Dept. Ed.*).

The Drum Island Heron Colony.—Estimates of the nests on Drum Island in Charleston Harbor in the 1959 season were made on March 28, April 19, and April 25. In March several hundred Common Egret nests and approximately 100 Black-crowned Night Heron nests held one to four eggs and no young. In 1950 and 1951, fresh eggs of these species were found on Drum Island a month later, or April 29. Egg laying has been pushed up consistently for the past eight years on the island.

On April 19 these estimates were made:

Little Blue Heron, 200 nests with 1 to 4 eggs and building.

Common Egret, 450 nests, 3 and 4 eggs, and young.

Snowy Egret, 400 nests, 1 to 4 eggs and building.

Louisiana Heron, 400 nests, 1 to 4 eggs and building.

Black-crowned Night Heron, 100 nests, 3 and 4 eggs and building.

Glossy Ibis, 100 nests, 1 to 4 eggs and building.

White Ibis, 2,500 nests, 1 to 4 eggs and building.

On April 25 these additional notes were made:

Cattle Egret, 30 nests, 1 to 4 eggs—an increase of 10 nests over last year.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 15 nests, 1 to 4 eggs—an increase over last year.

On April 25, the nesting White Ibises were estimated to number six to seven thousand birds. This places the adult population on Drum Island, within sight of the city of Charleston, at ten thousand birds.—ERNEST CUTTS, *Charleston, S. C., August 21, 1959.*

Ruddy Duck Breeding in South Carolina.—Under date of June 27, 1959, Sidney Hill, manager of Bear Island Game Management Area, Colleton County, S. C., wrote Robert H. Coleman, reporting a pair of Ruddy Ducks with young in the area. He surmised, and Coleman and I concurred, that one or both adults might have been cripples from the past hunting season since a part of the area is open to hunting.

On August 15, 1959, E. S. (Ned) Jaycocks, manager of the Romain Wildlife Refuge at McClellanville, S. C., phoned me that Hoyt Mills of the Refuge staff had reported a pair of Ruddies with five young on the Jacks Creek pond on Bull's Island, a week or ten days earlier. On August 18, Coleman and I went to Bull's Island with Manager Jaycocks. Not one, but two pairs of adult Ruddy Ducks were found, with five young each. The young were estimated to be about two-thirds the size of the adults, and in plumage were nearly indistinguishable from the adult females. All of the adults were in bright breeding plumage. Our observations were made on a bright sunny morning with 7X and 8X glasses for some twenty minutes, at distances between 50 and 300 yards. The two broods—with parents—were a couple of hundred yards apart. In moving about, the young tended to follow the adults in single file. At least some of the young had reached flight stage.—E. BURNHAM CHAMBERLAIN, *Charleston, S. C., Sept. 6, 1959.*

Swallow-tailed Kites at Hatteras.—On May 3, 1959, Miss Laura Bliss, Miss Gertrude Prior and the writer observed two Swallow-tailed Kites circling over Hatteras Island, just south of the community of Salvo, Dare County, N. C. The movement of the circling birds was from north to south. All of the observers are members of the Virginia Society of Ornithology.—C. C. STEIRLY, *Waverly, Virginia, Sept. 22, 1959.* (Swallow-tailed Kites are found regularly during the summer months in South Carolina, at the Santee River delta, just below Georgetown, about 250 miles SW of Hatteras. The Weather Bureau records no storms at the time, but for six days preceding the above observation the winds were steadily from the Southwest. Other recent North Carolina records: one over Mattamuskeet Refuge, a first for that location, on May 20, 1958; one over Pitt County, 100 miles west of Hatteras, May 28, 1959; and one over High Hampton, Jackson County, N. C., October 17, 1953. See *The Chat*, 23:39, 17:93, and 18:25, respectively.—*Dept. Ed.*).

Black Rail.—I was in Raven Knob Camp, Surry County, N. C., from June 9 to July 26 1959. There is little marsh along the lake (John Sabatta), but I saw a Black Rail running along the ground under some alders, *feigning injury*, which I took to be quite good evidence of nesting. This was on July 6. WENDELL P. SMITH, *North Wilkesboro, N. C., August 20, 1959.* (In twenty-three years of publication, *The Chat* has recorded the Black Rail but twice in North Carolina and once in South Carolina—the latter, a breeding record (V:55; 19:71; and XV:78—*Dept. Ed.*).

Black-necked Stilt.—On June 12 and 14, 1951, Robert Paxton of Lexington, Virginia, saw four Black-necked Stilts (*Himantopus mexicanus*) near Manteo, N. C. The birds were on a mud flat on Bodie Island, about two miles south of the causeway to Roanoke Island. Although these birds nest sparingly on the South Carolina coast, they are decidedly casual north of there. Virginia lists only two observations: 1929 and 1940. *Birds of North Carolina* (1942) lists only June 1900 at Nags Head, and one of those rare

winter records of December 3, 1900 in Currituck.—JOHN H. GREY, *Williamsburg, Va., Sept. 3, 1959*. (This was a very unusual observation in 1951. In recent years these stilts have become more numerous. See *The Chat*, 21:24 for a 1956 breeding record at Hatteras.—*Dept. Ed.*).

Northern Phalarope:—On August 30, 1952 three men from Virginia made a trip to Pea Island—W. F. Rountrey, of Norfolk; R. P. Richardson of Portsmouth; and Robert B. McCartney of Williamsburg. A Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*), was observed at close range for some time at the older of the fresh-water ponds. Unlike most of these we see, swimming in circles—this bird was running about in the short grass where the marsh is flooded. *Birds of North Carolina* (1942) cites eight records; Virginia seems to have ten records, and Sprunt and Chamberlain list seven records for South Carolina.—JOHN H. GREY, *Williamsburg, Virginia, Sept. 3, 1959*. (This belated report of a 1952 observation raises the number of North Carolina records to twelve. Three are recorded in *The Chat*: 18:20; 21:23; and 23:19.—*Dept. Ed.*).

White-winged Dove.—Reference was made in *The Chat* 23:2, June 1959, p. 37, to a bird seen by Sam Walker, manager of the Pea Island Refuge, some years back. The data seem worth recording since the 1957 edition of the *A. O. U. Checklist* does not list the bird having occurred in North Carolina.

On June 23, 1942 (not 1943 as listed above) Walker and James Silver, Regional Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta District, were driving over the Refuge near the Pea Island Coast Guard Station. They noted a dove on the telephone wires, and since Mourning Doves were not common on the Refuge they stopped to take a look. When the bird flew Walker commented on the white patches on the wings, and wondered if it was a domestic pigeon which he had mistaken for a dove. They got within 50 feet of the bird and realized it was a rarity, would be quite a record, but it would not be possible to collect it on the Refuge. They were both aware of the significance of the observation, and convinced of their identification, as they flushed the bird many times to make it fly ahead and alight on the wires.

A. O. U. Checklist gives an eastern and western form for the bird, but does not list a western form east of the Mississippi. We therefore assume that both North Carolina records (June 23, 1942, and Gatewood's of November 9, 1958) are of the Eastern White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica asiatica*). The *Checklist* says it breeds from southern Texas to eastern Cuba, and that it occurs in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Maine." Cruickshank lists a specimen taken November 14, 1929 (*Birds Around New York City*). Burleigh lists only one specimen for Georgia; Lowery gives the over-all dates for Louisiana as: "April 12 through June 29, and October 31 through January 1 . . . with a single bird September 25." He finds them in breeding season, but has not been able to prove that they do breed in Louisiana.—JOHN H. GREY, *Williamsburg, Va., Sept. 3, 1959*.

Ground Dove:—On May 11, 1941 Ray J. Beasley of Newport News, Va., with Capt. and Mrs. A. N. Angwin, USN, saw a flock of 10 to 15 Eastern Ground Doves (*Columbigallina passerina passerina*) flying about and alighting in a field on Knott's Island, on the North Carolina side (Currituck County). *Birds of North Carolina* (1942) records seven observations of these birds; and Virginia has only four dates. However, it is a common resident in southeastern South Carolina.—JOHN H. GREY, *Williamsburg, Va., Sept. 3, 1959*. (Three recent North Carolina records include a pair suspected of nesting near Southport in 1957.—*The Chat*, 21:92.—*Dept. Ed.*).

Sprague's Pipit at Chapel Hill.—On our morning field trip at the Annual Meeting of the CBC at Chapel Hill, three birds were observed in a closely cut alfalfa field, two being readily recognized as Water Pipits. I observed that the third bird was unusual and that I had never before seen a bird in that plumage. The Water Pipets were shown to the members of our group—about twenty—and then I started studying the unusual one. At first I thought that possibly it could be a young bird but quickly dismissed this thought on the basis of the pipit's nesting grounds being so far away. The bird was studied for at least 10 minutes by me and at least five others, including Joe Norwood. We examined it with 7X and 10X binoculars and a 30X scope. Mrs. Norwood made notes on the plumage. The bird remained motionless for some time.

To me, the very pronounced striping on the sides and back as well as the light and dark contrasting area behind and near the eye were the most noticeable features. This light and dark contrast was so noticeable that I was completely led away from recognizing it as a pipit and I suggested it was a young Horned Lark. It was finally flushed and I observed it flew as well as the two pipits.

It was not until I reached home and got Pough's field guide and found Eckelberry's drawing of the Sprague's Pipit that I realized that was what we had found. Recently, I went to the American Museum of Natural History in New York and through the courtesy of Dr. Eugene Eisenmann was given an opportunity to study skins of both pipits. In the collection there were four specimens of *spragueii* taken in Georgia in late March. One of these birds was very similar to the one I observed in May. The light and dark contrast back of the eye and the heavily streaked back were very noticeable. It is to be noted that Dr. Eisenmann and I observed two Water Pipits (*spinoletta*) with yellow legs which points out that this feature is not completely reliable in identifying *Spragueii* as mentioned in some guides. After studying these specimens carefully, I now do not hesitate to report a sight record of Sprague's Pipit at Chapel Hill, N. C., May 9th, 1959.—GEORGE A. SMITH, Greensboro, N. C., August 16, 1959.

Redstart Nesting at Fayetteville, N. C.—On May 31, 1959, Capt. Adrian Q. Pollock of Fort Bragg discovered a pair of American Redstarts feeding young in the nest at Lake MacArthur, near Fort Bragg, Cumberland County. Capt. George L. Wallace and I were with him and we all saw the parents fly up to the nest with insects three times. The nest was about 20 feet up, in what I took to be a Blackjack Oak and was placed about midway on a limb against an upright twig, making a sort of junction or fork. It seemed to be a rather compactly woven nest with some lichens on the outside.

Since I was unable to remain in the vicinity, I sent the above information to Mrs. Roscoe Hauser, Jr., a CBC member and a resident of nearby Fayetteville, with the thought that she would want to see the nest. Following is her reply, in part:

"On May 30, 1955, I discovered a female Redstart building a nest in downtown Fayetteville and I spent four days watching her. The male was seen rarely but heard continuously as he sang from perches near the nest. Unfortunately, they abandoned the nest after the fifth day when it was almost complete. It is fine to be able to add the Fort Bragg record to our local file."

Birds of North Carolina (1942) mentions Red Springs, Robeson County, as the eastern breeding boundary.—EDNA L. APPLEBERRY, *Wilmington, N. C.*, August 19, 1959. (*The Chat*, XV:59, records a pair of Redstarts prob-

ably nesting at Mount Olive, Wayne County, June 6. Mount Olive is about 40 miles east of Fayetteville.—*Dept. Ed.*).

Briefs for the Files.

Pied-billed Grebe, 1, Aug. 6, 7 miles SW of Raleigh, John Funderburg. • Cattle Egret, 2 pair on Starvation Island, Newport River, July 5. Harry T. Davis; a number seen this year for the first time at Savannah Refuge. E. O. Mellinger. • Wood Ibis, 150 on June 10, the largest concentration ever noted at Savannah Refuge. EOM; 43 seen flying low over Wadmalaw Island, Charleston County, Sept. 6. B. R. Chamberlain. • Glossy Ibis, about 75 on Savannah Refuge, April 9. EOM; 5 pair nesting on Starvation Island, Newport River, July 5. HTD. • White Ibis, large number of immatures with immature Little Blues and Common Egrets, July 19, Tarboro, N. C.; Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Morrow Jr.; 5 high over Porter's Neck Plantation, north of Wilmington, Aug. 6, Greg Massey, Maurice Barnhill; at least 100 present in May at Savannah Refuge, EOM. • King Rail, 1 near Newell, Mecklenburg County, N. C., Aug. 8 Mr. and Mrs. Shuford K. Peeler. • American Oystercatcher, 53 counted on mud flats along Inland Waterway north of Carolina Beach (Wilmington), July 2, Maurice Barnhill. • Lesser Yellowlegs, 4, new arrivals, Apr. 9 near Aiken, S. C., William Post Jr. • Knot, abundant and in high plumage, May 5 to June 4, or longer, in the vicinity of Savannah, Ivan Tomkins. • Black-necked Stilt, 2 at Savannah Refuge, May 9 through June 3, not nesting. EOM. • Yellow-billed Cuckoo, nest in pine, 2 eggs, Aug. 12, young left nest, Aug. 22, near Statesville, N. C. reported by Sarah Nooe. • Barred Owl, the known fishing hours of the owl reported in the Sept. *Chat* at New Bern were 7 a. m. and 6 p. m. Sam Sweeny. • Traill's Flycatcher, 2 pairs nested again at North Wilkesboro, Wendell P. Smith. • Olive-sided Flycatcher, 1 at Raven Knob Camp, Surry County, N. C., June 30, believed to be too early for a migrant. WPS. • Horned Lark, *Chat* 32:68, date is June 25. • Barn Swallow, a nest with young and young awing were found this summer on Folly Island (Charleston), Robert H. Coleman and others. • Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1, Apr. 9, Aiken, S. C., William Post, Jr. • Prothonotary Warbler, 6, April 9, Aiken, WJr. • Swainson's Warbler, heard singing by Apr. 12 at Savannah Refuge, EOM. • Bobolink, 1 male, Winston-Salem, June 2. Mr. and Mrs. John R. Gatewood. • Brewer's Blackbird, 1 male studied at length and well described, April 7, at Chapel Hill, Maurice Barnhill. • Baltimore Oriole, 1 adult, Apr. 6; 2 sub-adult males, April 20 and 21, Savannah, Ivan Tomkins; 1 in city yard, Charlotte, Sept. 29, disturbed while getting pokeberries, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Norwood. • Chipping Sparrow, about 200 apparently migrants, eastern part of Charlotte, Oct. 3. JRN's.

All dates 1959.

(Continued from page 85)

removed the tissues in which the feathers would form? Have you ever known any other species to be so affected?—ANNIE RIVERS FAVER, *Dept. Editor*, Oct. 16, 1959.

Note: The Christmas Count—The dates, Dec. 23, 1959—Jan. 3, 1960. The official rules are unchanged. Tabulations and summaries used in *The Chat* require a great deal of time. Three important counts were not received in time last year to be included. The compilers will help materially by following these requests:

Use A.O.U. order and names if possible.

Indicate observations believed to be important.

Mail to reach B. R. Chamberlain, 1110 E. Worthington Ave., Charlotte 3, N. C., not later than Tuesday, January 12, 1960.

The editor is indebted to Miss Elizabeth M. Parker for seeing the final stages of the September number through the press while he attended the A. O. U. meeting at Regina, Saskatchewan.

The present number is unduly late. The editor's best alibi is too many birds to band. In fact, this appears to be a very good year for Juncos and White-throated Sparrows. Query: what is the real eastern boundary of the winter range of the Carolina Junco? Out of more than 600 juncos handled at Hillsboro, I have seen no more than two or three that could fairly be called *carolinensis*. The Check-List indicates that it moves very little.

Correction: The account of the CBC Annual Meeting in the September *Chat* included the observation of a young Horned Lark. The observer requests that this be deleted. Do it now.—K.C.S.

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Species or person's names in the following are not indexed: Christmas Counts, pp. 2-11; Spring Counts, pp. 47-54, 56.

Notes signed "Ed." or "Dept. Ed." are not generally indexed under author.

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Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, chiefly in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

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Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	\$1.00	Contributing	\$25.00
Supporting	\$5.00	Affiliated Club	\$2.00
Life—\$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)			

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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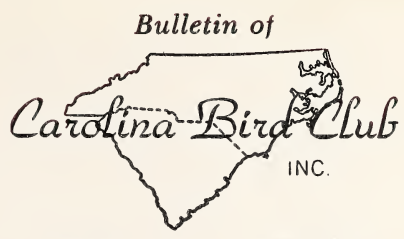
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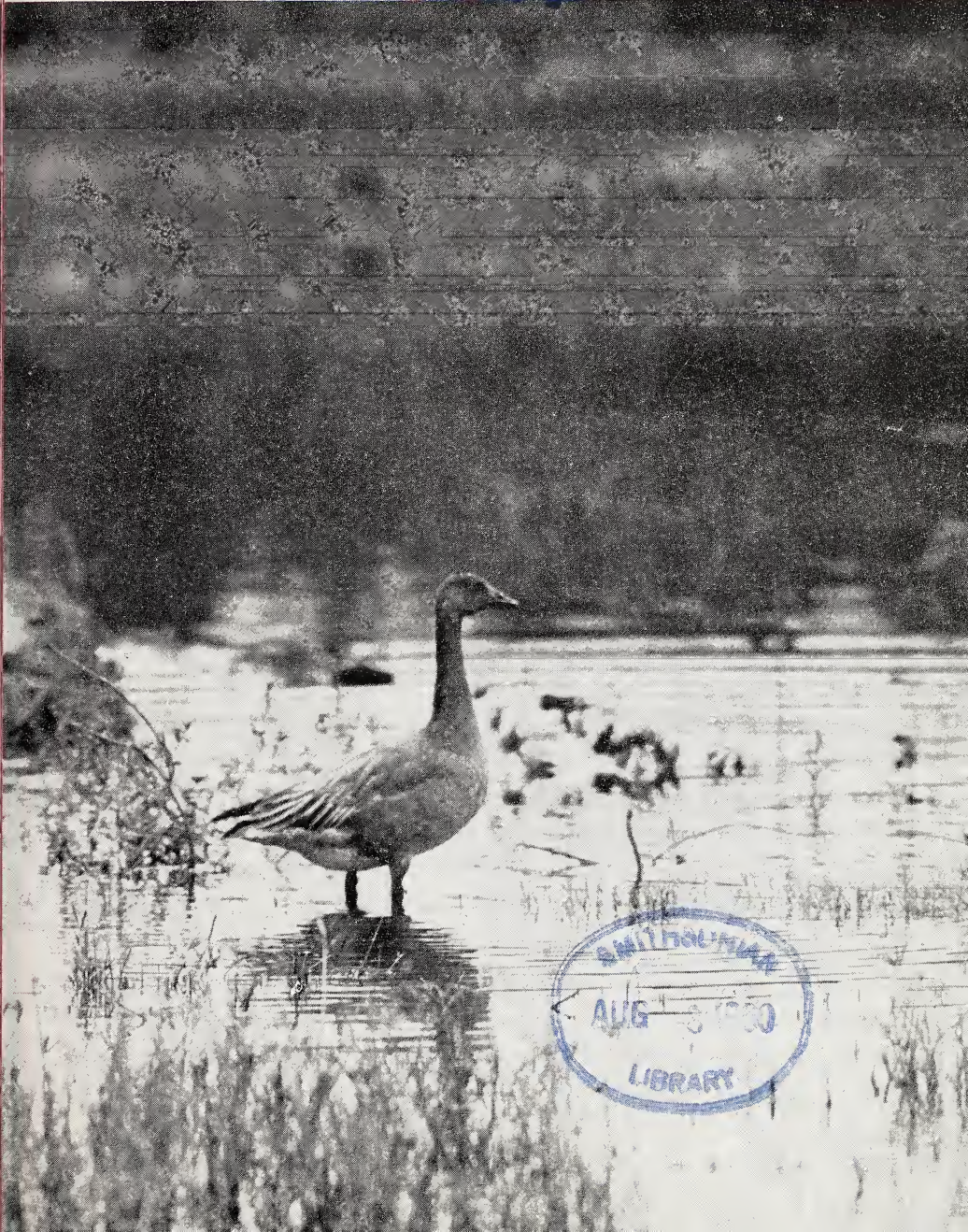
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THE CHAT

Volume 24 Numbers 1-2
MARCH-JUNE, 1960



Division of Birds



THE CHAT

Volume 24, Numbers 1-2

March-June, 1960

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Cover Photo—Blue Goose at Hill's Pond, Eastover, S. C. See Page 30. Photo by Gordon H. Brown of S. C. Wildlife Resources Dept.

The Chat

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Your new president feels the weight of the responsibility which he has assumed. He has a feeling of inadequacy as he faces the task of "filling the shoes" so capably worn by Edna Appleberry. Your president's greatest ambition is to deserve the honor you have bestowed upon him.

The May meeting in Cashiers, North Carolina, was a pleasant experience for all who attended. The programs each evening and the field trips on Saturday moved like a well-oiled machine. Col. and Mrs. Norm Frost and Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Monroe endeared themselves to all as field trip leaders. Betty and Sam Davis, Mrs. Monroe, Col. Frost and Jay Shuler provided the programs Friday and Saturday nights. All were saddened by the announcement that Joe Norwood was "bowing out" as field trip chairman. So far, his successor has not been secured.

The widely scattered membership of the Carolina Bird Club makes it difficult to communicate with each other. Many of you are unknown to your president and he is unknown to many of you. If you have any ideas for the good of the club, please write a member of the executive committee. The cooperation of all will help us to move forward to a better future.

A sizable increase in membership would strengthen the club in many ways; not the least of which, would be an increase in income. I know of no club where you receive so much for so little. F. B. Meacham, chairman of the membership committee, will welcome any suggestions from you as to how to enlist new members. In the meantime, each of you can solicit memberships among your friends or give memberships to interested friends when the occasion calls for a gift.

The Carolina Bird Club members must make themselves effective conservationists by exercising their privilege of voting to insure the election of state and federal representatives who will help to safeguard our wild-life resources. As soon as legislative action is proposed which jeopardizes our resources, each member should express himself to his local representative. Your president and the executive committee are always ready to "lend a hand" in these matters.

Most of the members have not had formal training as ornithologists and have little interest in technical research, but CBC should foster and encourage research among its members. Your president would appreciate suggestions from you concerning your ideas as to how we might meet the needs of these more serious students.

Ideas and wishes are fine, but nothing is accomplished until they are put into action. Will not each of you act to help CBC to move forward to a better future.

GILBERT BRISTOW

March-June, 1960

CHRISTMAS COUNT—1958

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN.

The 1959 Christmas Count of 177 species compares favorably with our good years, and this in spite of poor weather in the majority of the localities. The enormous blackbird roost (800,000) within the Greensboro count area gave an all-time individual high of 1.4 million.

The absence this winter of coastal wildfowl counts—but not of wild-fowl—makes comparison of overall figures difficult. An upward trend in population is indicated.

High counts of some species are interesting: Red-throated Loons, 175; Sparrow Hawks, 153 (coastal); chickadees, 1163; Tufted Titmice, 721; Myrtle Warblers, 2998; White-throated Sparrows, 4857. A count of 76 Phoebees was recorded well spread over the territory. The count last winter was 47. The Bluebird count of 946 was almost identical with last winter's count. Evening Grosbeaks were found at five localities, Rockingham being the southernmost.

New localities reporting this winter: Hampstead, Morehead City, and Central Beaufort County, N. C.

Central Beaufort County, N. C. (all points within 15 mile diameter circle, center at mouth of Broad Creek where it enters Pamlico River; including both sides of river from Bath to Washington; feeders, 5%; river and river shore, 30%; fields 30%; mixed woods, 30%; pure pine woods, 5%. Jan. 1, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear and frosty, a.m. cloudy, p.m.; temp. 22° to 39°; wind NE, 15 m.p.h.; ground bare, water open. Five observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 20 (10 on foot, 10 by car); total party-miles, 139 (7 on foot, 132 by car). The first Christmas count in this area in about 15 years. Total species, 71; total individuals, 18,879. Seen during the period: Horned Grebe, Common Goldeneye, Surf Scoter, Red-tailed Hawk, Pigeon Hawk, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Evening Grosbeak. This count contained good concentrations of Redwinged Blackbirds and Common Grackles. Ten Baltimore Orioles were listed. With more observers, it appears this locality might be expected to return 100 or more species.—Elizabeth Ball (compiler), Ruth Brown, Phyllis Carver, Geraldine Cox, Mary McLauren.

Chapel Hill, N. C. (Area unchanged). Dec. 27. Hours not shown. Clear 40°-66°. Fifteen parties (?); 16 observers. Total of 52 miles by car, 36 miles on foot. Other data not shown. Totals, 68 species; 3453 individuals. Largest individual count: 457 Slate-colored Juncos. Observers: R. M. Brown, Dr. Archer Dillard, Mr. and Mrs. Logan Irvin, Jimmy L. Love, Dr. and Mrs. G. R. McCarthy, Mrs. W. D. Patterson, Lyman A. Ripperton (compiler), C. P. Russell, W. B. Sanders, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Sharpe, Mrs. P. H. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Matt L. Thompson.

Charleston, S. C. (same area as preceding years). Dec. 29. 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear; tempt. 44° to 59°; wind WSW, 6 to 26 m.p.h. 14 observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 46 (29 on foot, 16 by car, 1 by boat); total party miles, 143 (41 on foot, 94 by car, 8 by boat). The duck count, in species and individuals was noticeably poor. The total scaup count of 31 contained 30 Lesser Scaup and 1 Greater Scaup. The combined count last year was 474. A Wh-p-poor-will was seen in the road near McClellansville by the Messrs. Edwards, before 7 a.m. before reaching the count area. Thirty-two Eastern Bluebirds were found. There were but 12 in last year's count.—Mr. and Mrs. Francis Barrington, Dr. Grange Coffin, Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Coleman, John Henry Dick, R. D. Edwards, R. L. Edwards, John M. Horlbeck, Newton Seebeck, I. S. Metcalf, Col. I. S. H. Metcalf, Mrs. John A. Leland, Ellison A. Williams (compiler).

Charlotte, N. C. (all points within 15 mile diameter circle centering at intersection of 7th. Street and Briar Creek as in past 17 years. Suitable birding areas rapidly disappearing. Jan. 2; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Intermittent drizzle all day; temp. 32° to 37°; wind NNE, 10.5 m.p.h.; light ice on trees and on wires in exposed places. Water open. Fifteen observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 30 (11 on foot, 19 by car); total party-miles, 216 (12 on foot, 204 by car). Total species, 51; total individuals, 8005. A fair count considering the unfavorable weather. No noteworthy observations. It is likely that more parties might have improved the returns. —B. R. Chamberlain (compiler), Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson, Mrs. Ray Ford, Miss May Fraley, Miss Meade Fraley, J. P. Hamilton, Lee Jones, Julian Meadows, Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Norwood, Mr. & Mrs. Shuford Peeler, Mrs. George C. Potter, Mrs. E. J. Presser, Frank Ramsey. Part time participants: William Anderson, John Anderson, Louisa Hamilton.

Columbia, S. C. (all points within a 15 mile diameter circle, center, State Capitol building. Same area as last year. Deciduous river and creek swamps, 30%; pine woods, 20%; open fields, 35%; lake shores, 5%; urban, 10%). Dec. 29, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear to cloudy; temp. 41° to 52°; wind SE, gusty, 10 to 25 m.p.h. Thirteen observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 36 (26 on foot, 10 by car); total party-miles, 134 (22 on foot, 112 by car). Total species, 63; total individuals, 9634. Flocks totaling 3632 Redwinged Blackbirds were counted, or estimated. Possibly the most noteworthy find, 1 Henslow's Sparrow. —Gilbert J. Bristow (compiler), Arthur H. Buehler, Col. Frank Childs, Miss Natalie Curtis, Jimmy Hartin, Mrs. S. E. Hartin, Mrs. P. B. Hendrix, Mrs. Helen Kendell (Chatham, N. Y.), Miss Mary Nell Koon, Harold Roof, Jr., Mrs. Clyde Sisson, Wood'e Senn, Carey Smith. (*Columbia Bird Club, The Oakview Bird Club, Lexington, N. C., and friends.*)

Elkin, N. C. (area as in other years, Elkin, Ronda, and Klondike). Dec. 26; 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cloudy, clearing to fair and warm in p.m.; temp. 32° to 50°. Wind light. Seven observers. Five miles on foot, 50 by car. Party data missing. Total species, 52; total individuals, 2940. Seen during period but not on count day: Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Brown Creeper, 1; Screech Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 1; Evening Grosbeak, 1. The **Brown-headed Nuthatch** was the first ever found on an Elkin Christmas census. —Tom Bryan, J. H. Click, Jeff Earp, Lin Hendren (compiler), E. M. Hodel, L. Petree, Wendell P. Smith.

Great Smoky Mts., National Park, Tenn.-N. C. (all points within standard circle centering at junction of Laurel Creek and Bote Mountain truck trail, including Abrams Falls, Laurel Lake, Elkmont, and junction of Hazel Creek with Bone Valley Creek; open farm land 15%, old fields, 25%; forests, 30%; roadsides, 20%; stream courses and reservoir, 10%). Jan. 3; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Partly cloudy, temp. 35° to 50°; wind West, 10 to 15 m.p.h. Ground bare and well saturated. Thirty-six observers in 11 parties. Total party-hours, 88 (69 on foot, 19 by car); total party-miles, 298 (87 on foot, 211 by car). Total species, 61 (1 additional race); total individuals, 4574. The total chickadee count of 293 includes the Black-capped and the Carolina Chickadee. —Jane Briscoe, Brockway Crouch, William Downy, John Elson, Mary Enloe, Mr. and Mrs. Harold C. Garlinghouse, Robert B. Hamilton, David B. Highbaugh, Philip Huff, Mrs. Elsie S. Janson, Tony Koella, Beth Lacy, Charles Loveday, Dorothy Maclean, Richard P. Martin, Wm. T. Martin, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. Stanleigh R. Meeker, J. T. Mengel, Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Monroe, Fred Moses, Miss Anne Moyer, Mrs. E. E. Overton, Paul S. Pardue, Richard W. Russell, Robert R. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Smith, Jr., Arthur Stupka (compiler), Mrs. Arthur Stupka, Mrs. Thomas C. Swindell, David Tanner, Dr. James T. Tanner, James Wardley. (*Tenn. Ornithological Society, National Park Service, and guests*).

Greensboro, N. C. (standard area centering ½ mile SW of WBIG transmitter. Deciduous woods and pine woods, 25%; thickets, 15%; fresh water

lakes and ponds, 25%; open fields, 15%; marsh and wooded swamps, 10%; lawns and parks, 10%). Jan. 2; 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Temp. 29° to 36°; wind NE, 6 m.p.h. Cloudy, some fog, drizzle to freezing rain. Thirty observers in 13 parties. Total party-hours, 95¼ (50½ on foot, 45 by car.) Total party-miles, 224½ (25½ on foot, 199 by car). Total species, 71; total individuals, 1,260,300. Considering weather conditions this is an excellent count of species. It was 8 below last winter's count. Possibly due to the fact that there were 13 parties this year against 15 last year. Last winter the black-bird roost was located NW of the city. This year it is located about 4 miles from the center of the city, to the southwest, on the High Point road. This year's totals are about double the figures estimated last year. Noteworthy: Baltimore Oriole, 1; White-crowned Sparrow, 31; Evening Grosbeak, 1; (Dec. 30, in Mrs. Settan's yard); Snow Bunting, 1 (studied at length at the home of Dr. and Mrs. C. I. Reed from arrival, Dec. 14 until departure, Dec. 31, but not found on count date). —Inez Coldwell, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd H. Craft, Larry Crawford, Mrs. R. C. Crocker, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Daniels, Charlotte Dawley, Mrs. J. L. Hege, Mrs. James T. Heilig, Sidney Holmes, Richard Knox, Robert L. Lasley, James Mattocks (High Point), Mrs. Robert E. McCoy (compiler), Ethel McNairy, Mrs. Franklin McNutt, Ida Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. George Perrett, Dr. and Mrs. C. I. Reed, Etta Schiffman, Mrs. Edith Settan, George A. Smith, Mrs. Paul Stam, Thomas E. Street, Mrs. Charles M. Swart, Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, Mrs. Ralph H. Weisner. (*Piedmont Bird Club*).

Hampstead, Pender Co., N. C. (all points within a 15 mile diameter circle, center 1 mile SSE of Hampstead on the edge of Inland Waterway; same area as covered last year with the exception of Figure Eight Island). Dec. 23; 5:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Partly cloudy, overcast in p.m.; temp. 25° to 45°; wind NE, 10 to 20 m.p.h. Ground bare, water open, ocean rough. Five observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 22½ (6 on foot, 16½ by car); total party-miles, 248 (7 on foot, 241 by car). A surprising concentration of Red-breasted Mergansers, Boat-tailed Grackles, and Sparrow Hawks was found. The Pine Siskins and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are noteworthy, and particularly so, the Western Kingbird which was identified satisfactorily after carefully study by most of the group. Observers: Edna L. Appleberry, Maurice V. Barnhill, Jr., John M. Irvine, Jr. (compiler), Horace G. Loftin, and Gregg Massey.

Henderson, N. C. (area same as in past, with Country Club area added. Dec. 28; 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Rainy all day; temp. 40° to 60°. Four observers, one at home and 3 in the field. Total species, 47, total individuals, 6940. Myrtle Warblers and Song Sparrows seemed to be scarce. Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared to be more plentiful than the count indicates. Brown Creepers and Fox Sparrows were unusually plentiful. —Mrs. A. W. Bachman (compiler), Miss Mariel Gary, Miss Garnette Myers, Mrs. G. E. Rose.

Jefferson, N. C. (standard area centering at Todd). Dec. 27; 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clear, temp. 32° to 60°; wind calm. Seven observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 66½ (35 on foot, 12 by car, 19½ by jeep); total party-miles, 87 (41 by foot, 18 by car, 28 by jeep). Total species, 32; total individuals, 644. Although the species count is down, the individual count is the highest ever made in the eight years of censusing this area. Also, two new species were added this year: Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Seen in area during period but not on count day: Mallard, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Bobwhite, Mourning Dove, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker. —Mrs. A. Burman Hurt (compiler), John R. Jackson, Gordon McWilliams, Clyde Miller, James Miller, Richard Miller, Mike Welch.

Lenoir, N. C. (sleet and rain in a.m., and rain in p.m., prevented attempt at standard coverage. Counts were taken at feeders and in yards) Jan. 2; temp. 28° to 35°; wind NE; ice on trees and shrubs. Total species, 40; total individuals, 805. The Brown Thrasher listed had been present all winter. —Mrs. J. B. Bernard, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Greer, Miss Margaret

Harper, Miss Cary Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hoyer, J. T. Ingram, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Manchester, Mr. and Mrs. Fred May (compilers), Miss Helen Myers, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Parks.

Morehead City, N. C. (all points within standard circle centering $\frac{1}{2}$ mile SSE of North River Methodist Church, including Morehead City, Beaufort, Harker's Island, Marshallberg, Williston, North River, Back Sound, the Straights, Country Club, Oglesby Farm, Core Creek, Newport River, Crab Point, Atlantic Beach, Fort Macon, and Beaufort Inlet; open sound, 35%; ocean, 5%; beach, 3%; cities and towns, 3%; open fields, 25%; salt marsh, 15%; woodlands, 14%). Dec. 28; 7 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Overcast, ocean foggy; temp. 50° to 68°; wind S, 10 to 30 m.p.h. Ground clear, water open, ocean rough. Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 16½ (6 on foot, 10½ by car); total party-miles, 135 (8 on foot, 127 by car). Total species, 96; total individuals, 8416. Seen in count period but not on count day: Gannet, Surf Scoter, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Tree Swallow, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Hermit Thrush. This is an unusually good count for two parties. It seems likely that six or more parties might find 125 species under favorable conditions. Best finds, this count: 3 Purple Sandpipers on rock jetties at Beaufort Inlet, where they were seen last winter, 3 Great Black-backed Gulls, a Western Kingbird (Mr. and Mrs. HGL). —Maurice V. Barnhill, Jr., John M. Irvine, Jr., (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Horace G. Loftin.

New London, Stanly Co., N. C. (all points within a 15 mile diameter circle, center 2 mi. NW of Badin as in previous counts). Dec. 29; 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Fair at dawn, overcast rest of day; temp, 40° to 60°; wind WNW, 10-15 m.p.h. 26 observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 37 (20½ on foot, 16½ by car); total party-miles, 270½ (24½ on foot, 246 by car). A substantial increase over last winter in species and individuals, probably influenced by an increase in observers. Most unusual find, a **Yellowthroat**. This bird was watched carefully by three observers including John Trott. A Pigeon Hawk was satisfactorily observed also. —Mrs. Barrett Crook, Susan Green, C. M. Haithecock, Barbara Hatley, Gail Mahathey, Donald Maner, Pete Nielson, Sue Trott Parker, Ervin Poplin, Wayne Smith, John Trott (compiler), Jane Turner, Anne Whitlock, Mrs. John Whitlock. Others who helped at feeders, P. E. Book, George Culp, Joe Farabee, Mrs. G. H. Isenhour, Mrs. M. L. Mason, Miss Gladys Mason, Miss Vera Mason, James Mauney, Miss B. B. Menius, Pearlle Smith.

North Wilkesboro, N. C. (Portions of the Yadkin and Reddies River valleys as in previous counts). Dec. 31; 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear, 38° to 46°; wind, W, calm to 20 m.p.h. Single observer, 10 miles on foot, 5 miles in car. Total species, 31; total individuals, 961. This is a sub-normal count. Common species not found: Bobwhite, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, and Red-bellied and Hairy Woodpeckers. Only 6 Eastern Bluebirds were found. —Wendell P. Smith.

Raleigh, N. C. (Practically same area as previous counts; lakes and small ponds 25%, mixed pine and deciduous woodland 40%, deciduous woodland 20%, open fields 15%). Dec. 28. 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cloudy all day with intermittent misty rain; calm; temp. 50° to 66°; ground bare, water open. Six observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 40 (34 on foot, 6 by car); Total party-miles, 56 (18 on foot, 38 by car). Total species, 62; total individuals, 3681. Somewhat below last winter's species count but still a good figure for Raleigh in view of the poor weather condition. A concentration of 130 Water Pipits was the highest for the two states. Five Baltimore Orioles are noteworthy. Two were seen during the count period last winter. This count included 65 Evening Grosbeaks. —Philip Davis, James Green, Mrs. John Rhodes, Mrs. Merle Showalter, David Wray (compiler), Mrs. David Wray.

Rockingham, N. C. (same area as spring census. Lakes, ponds, streams, 45%; deciduous woodland, 30%; fields and brush, 15%; pine woods, 5%; marsh, 5%). Dec. 31; 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunny and bright most of the day; temp. 27° to 46°; wind 5 to 15 m.p.h. Two observers in 2 parties. Total

party-hours, 24 (all on foot); total party-miles 35 (all on foot). Total species, 63; total individuals, 1205. These two observers are to be commended for an all-out effort at census taking. However, a single party of two permits verification and makes the job more enjoyable. Probably the best find was 3 **Grasshopper Sparrows**. Rockingham is a bit far north for this bird in mid-winter. Specimens have been taken at Aiken, S. C., during winter months. —Victor Duehring, Nick Lovin (compiler).

Rocky Mount, N. C. (Same area as in past several years). Dec. 26. 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. partially cloudy and mild; temp. 40° to 60°; calm winds. Two observers in one party during afternoon, compiler alone in morning. Total party miles, 134 by car. Total species, 58; total individuals, 4296. Noteworthy: **Whistling Swan**, **Blue Goose**, 2 **Baltimore Orioles**, 96 **Evening Grosbeaks**. —John Thompson, Bill Joyner (compiler).

Spartanburg, S. C. (all points within standard circle centering in Spartanburg, including Zimmerman, Pierce and Johnson lakes, sewage disposal plant; open farmlands, 15%; town suburbs, 20%; freshwater lakes, ponds and marshes, 45%, mixed woodlands, 20%). Jan. 3; 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear, temp. 38° to 50°; wind 8 to 12 m.p.h. Seven observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 17 (12 on foot, 5 by car); total party-miles, 80 (10 on foot, 70 by car). Total species, 47; total individuals, 1827. This count somewhat lower than normal in species. Most important find: a **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. —Gabriel Cannon, Louisa Carlisle, Ruth Crick (compiler), Paul Crosby, Mrs. Louis Spivey, Dr. and Mrs. John O. Watkins.

Wilmington, N. C. (Area same as in previous years, centering at Myrtle Grove, except Clarendon Plantation omitted and Echo Farm Dairy added). Dec. 30; 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; clear; temp. 35° to 53°; wind, WSW, 6.9 m.p.h. Fourteen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 65 (34 on foot, 31 by car); total party-miles, 403 (36 on foot, 367 by car). Total species, 151; total individuals, 48,270. This species count will compare favorably with the highest in the country. The individual count included 30,000 **Redwinged Blackbirds**. Noteworthy: 3 **Snow Geese**, 1 **Peregrine Falcon**, 13 **Piping Plovers**, 6 **Gull-billed Terns**, 118 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, 1 **Yellow-throated Warbler**, 1 **Yellow-breasted Chat**, 2 **Baltimore Orioles**, and 2 **Blue Grosbeaks**. All of the above were satisfactorily initialled and commented upon. —Mrs. Edna Appleberry (compiler), Cecil Appleberry, Mrs. Mary Baker, Maurice Barnhill, John Irvine, Sr., John Irvine, Jr., Bill James, Harry Latimer, Jr., Greg Massey, James Mattocks (High Point), Mrs. Polly Mebane, George A. Smith (Greensboro), Mrs. Mary Ulrich, Mrs. Marie Vander Schalie. (*Wilmington Natural Science Club and friends*).

Winston-Salem, N. C. (all points within standard circle centering to include County Farm, Salem Lake, Tanglewood Park, Reynolda and Wake Forest campus, as in previous years). Jan. 2; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Overcast to steady light rain; temp. 29° to 34°; wind NE, 0 to 5 m.p.h. Eight observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 27 (19 by foot, 8 by car); total party-miles, 85 (13 on foot, 72 by car). Total species, 48; individuals, 1956. An unusually good count of **Brown Thrashers**. **House Sparrows** in greater numbers than in the past—possibly in step with expanding construction. No **White-crowned Sparrows** were found this year. Seen during the court period but not on count day: **Black Duck**, **Scaup** (sp.), **Ruddy Duck**, **Cedar Waxwing**, and **Common Grackle**. —L. Hartsell Cash (compiler), Mrs. Ben F. Huntley, Jr., Dr. Thomas Simpson, Mrs. Alex Sloan, Dr. and Mrs. Merrill P. Spencer, Robert H. Witherington, Mrs. Wortham Wyatt.

Correction: In our comment upon the **Swallow-tailed Kite** observation on page 87 of the December 1959 issue, the year 1959 is shown for the Pitt County record. This should be 1953. The observation is recorded in volume 17 (1953) as shown.

Christmas Count
1959

	Charleston, S. C.	Hampstead, N. C.	Wilmington, N. C.	Morhead City, N. C.	Beaufort Co., N. C.	Rocky Mount, N. C.	Columbia, S. C.	Rockingham, N. C.	Chapel Hill, N. C.	Henderson, N. C.	Raleigh, N. C.	New London, N. C.	Spartanburg, S. C.	Charlotte, N. C.	Greensboro, N. C.	Winston-Salem, N. C.	Lenoir, N. C.	North Wilkesboro, N. C.	Elkin, N. C.	Jefferson, N. C.	Gr. Smoky Mts., N. C.
Individual Totals	129	16	61	48	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Loon	3	16	165	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Red-throated Loon	1	17	165	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Horned Grebe	80	27	21	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pied-billed Grebe	108	35	4	26	7	2	3	6	..	..	1	4	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brown Pelican	56	4	18	28	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gannett	78	30	48	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dbl.-cr. Cormorant	138	10	94	19	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Anhinga	1	..	..	..	..	3	2	2	2	..	1	11	..	..	12	8	..	..	1	..	..
Great Blue Heron	112	27	33	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Little Blue Heron	26	14	4	3	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Egret	58	20	2	35	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Snowy Egret	16	10	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Louisiana Heron	62	40	4	15	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Black-cr. Nt. Heron	13	6	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yellow-cr. Nt. Heron	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Am. Bittern	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whistling Swan	112	..	132	1	110	1	..	..	..	..	50	40	..	..	27	159	..	..	470	..	..
Canada Goose	1,928	..	..	..	1050	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Snow Goose	3	..	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blue Goose	5	..	116	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	114	..	..	143	23	..	..	4	..	60
Mallard	774	21	20	57	..	1	1	20	2	..	6	8	..	1	4	..	..	..	192	..	17
Black Duck	172	22	6	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	12	..	..
Gadwall	63	18	35	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pintail	48	42	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Green-winged Teal	72	32	35	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blue-winged Teal	15	2	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Am. Widgeon	85	27	31	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	2	..	..
Shoveler	62	58	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wood Duck	203	2	3	195	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Ring-necked Duck	838	50	26	1	12	1	67	10	8	..	250	6	..	2	336	9	..	..	..	..	60
Canvasback	73	9	20	28	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scaup (sp.) *	128	31	54	13	4	1	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Goldeneye	49	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bufflehead	172	34	82	37	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Old Squaw	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Scoter	23	9	13	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Christmas Count
1959

	Charleston, S. C.	Hamstead, N. C.	Wilmington, N. C.	Morehead City, N. C.	Beaufort Co., N. C.	Rocky Mount, N. C.	Columbia, S. C.	Rockingham, N. C.	Chapel Hill, N. C.	Henderson, N. C.	Raleigh, N. C.	New London, N. C.	Spartanburg, S. C.	Charlotte, N. C.	Greensboro, N. C.	Winston-Salem, N. C.	Lenoir, N. C.	North Wilkesboro, N. C.	Elkin, N. C.	Jefferson, N. C.	Gr. Smoky Mts., N. C.
Individual Totals	5	8	2	3	86	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	9
Surf Scoter	22	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Ruddy Duck	5	21	6	10	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	1
Hooded Merganser	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Merganser	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Red-breasted Merganser	10	257	115	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Turkey Culture	56	18	8	2	1	2	3	9	19	1	..	86	3	..	..	..	..	..	15	..	..
Black Vulture	43	6	2	..	1	6	27	5	6	..	..	18	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	7	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cooper's Hawk	15	1	1	..	1	..	..	3	..	..	2	3	..	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	1
Red-tailed Hawk	52	5	6	7	..	2	5	..	3	..	1	9	2	1	7	..	..	..	1	..	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	37	5	4	9	..	..	2	2	1	5	1	2	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bald Eagle	14	3	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marsh Hawk	45	6	4	9	..	2	..	3	4	..	1	6	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Osprey	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Peregrine Falcon	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pigeon Hawk	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sparrow Hawk	153	4	26	18	13	9	12	1	9	..	3	4	6	1	6	2	..	1	..	2	10
Ruffed Grouse	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Bobwhite	232	7	21	2	..	..	9	2	67	21	..	34	12	12	2	..	..	..	19	..	..
Turkey	81	24	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
King Rail	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Clapper Rail	20	9	8	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Virginia Rail	6	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sora	5	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Gallinule	15	11	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Am. Coot	400	17	72	..	10	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	90
Am. Oystercatcher	67	58	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Semipalmated Plover	82	1	78	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Piping Plover	66	53	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Killdeer	453	1	7	80	15	71	47	3	13	8	6	22	14	46	58	..	..	8	5	..	2
Black-bellied Plover	178	9	51	29	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ruddy Turnstone	22	4	7	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Am. Woodcock	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Snipe	81	1	13	12	..	1	17	..	..	..	3	1	..	13	1	1	..	..	1	..	16
Spotted Sandpiper	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Willet	35	9	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Christmas Count
1959

	Charleston, S. C.	Hampstead, N. C.	Wilmington, N. C.	Morehead City, N. C.	Beaufort Co., N. C.	Rocky Mount, N. C.	Columbia, S. C.	Rockingham, N. C.	Chapel Hill, N. C.	Henderson, N. C.	Raleigh, N. C.	New London, N. C.	Spartanburg, S. C.	Charlotte, N. C.	Greensboro, N. C.	Winston-Salem, N. C.	Lenoir, N. C.	North Wilkesboro, N. C.	Elkin, N. C.	Jefferson, N. C.	Gr. Smoky Mts., N. C.
Greater Yellowlegs	94	40	8	22	24																
Lesser Yellowlegs	5	1		3																	
Purple Sandpiper	8				3																
Least Sandpiper	7		7																		
Dunlin	434	11	246	152	25																
Short-billed Dowitcher	46	10		36																	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	70		42	18	10																
Western Sandpiper	205	124		81																	
Marbled Godwit	1			1																	
Sanderling	144	3	55	70	16																
Gr. Black-backed Gull	6			1	3							2									
Herring Gull	1,647	32	206	261	1,130	10		6													
Ring-billed Gull	6,133	117	1,718	1,010	3,156	122	29					38					1				1
Laughing Gull	6	1	3	2																	
Bonaparte's Gull	20		1	11	8																
Gull-billed Tern	6			6																	
Forster's Tern	157	42	70	43	2																
Royal Tern	14	2		4	1																
Caspian Tern	3		1	2																	
Black Skimmer	13		10	3																	
Mourning Dove	1,774	85	50	71	13	10	21	9	58	56	18	361	31	160	157	19	65	175	288		39
Screech Owl	2			1																	
Gr. Horned Owl	5			5								4					1		1		
Barred Owl	10																				
Short-eared Owl	1			1																	
Belted Kingfisher	115	18	9	29	9	1	3	6	2	1	4	4	2	2	8	1	1	1	1	2	15
Yellow-shafted Flicker	524	10	67	134	12	31	35	17	33	17	16	15	5	24	46	8	1	1	6	1	6
Pileated Woodpecker	68	14	2	7		3				6	9	15	6	10	51	4	4	1	3	1	34
Red-bellied Woodpecker	234	28	5	31	2	17	8	9	26	6	9	15	2	10	2	1	1	4	4		
Red-headed Woodpecker	57		1	2		1	4		21	21	6	11	2		2	1			5		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	139	8	5	34		6	3	5	21	5		8	2	1	25	5	2		7		2
Hairy Woodpecker	68	5	5	14	1	3	4	1	9	1	1	1			12	1		1	1		7
Downy Woodpecker	286	13	5	22	2	12	10	13	24	11	3	11	3	9	50	7	9	4	10	12	49
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	5	1	1	3																	
Western Kingbird	2			1																	
Eastern Phoebe	76	3	6	12	1	4	6	4	2		1	3		1					6		14

Christmas Count

1959

	Individual Totals	Charleston, S. C.	Hampstead, N. C.	Wilmington, N. C.	Morehead City, N. C.	Beaufort Co., N. C.	Rocky Mount, N. C.	Columbia, S. C.	Rockingham, N. C.	Chapel Hill, N. C.	Henderson, N. C.	Raleigh, N. C.	New London, N. C.	Spartanburg, S. C.	Charlotte, N. C.	Greensboro, N. C.	Winston-Salem, N. C.	Lenoir, N. C.	North Wilkesboro, N. C.	Elkin, N. C.	Jefferson, N. C.	Gr. Smoky Mts., N. C.
Horned Lark	74						54						20									
Tree Swallow	28	2	38	26			25	82	39	92	17	125	48	52	44	200	32	28	10	28	24	93
Blue Jay	1,230	36	175	1	6		36	82	39	92	17	125	48	52	44	200	32	28	10	28	24	93
Am. Crow	2,741	53	260	213	213		31	77	25	78	41	15	67	35	102	174	25	1	365	406	61	564
Fish Crow	92	2	8	51	14		17															
Carolina Chickadee	1,163	34	9	79	3		12	32	15	75	52	21	67	26	30	255	56	27	15	20	19	293
Tufted Titmouse	721	9	4	56	3		9	41	11	72	29	28	18	32	18	151	37	24	13	26	11	115
White-breasted Nuthatch	179				1		4			4	21		6		1	41	21	8	5	8	5	9
Red-breasted Nuthatch	13			1								3		1			1					
Brown-headed Nuthatch	224	12	7	85			13	13		14	23	1	10	3	13	27	1	1	1	1	1	19
Brown Creeper	71	5		4				5	1	6	14		2	3		7	3	1	1			
House Wren	66	8	8	43	5		1															
Winter Wren	51	1	1	9			2		1	3		4				1			3	1	2	23
Carolina Wren	623	29	13	82	18		21	34	18	20	28	48	39	14	21	60	31	8	19	22	12	63
Long-billed Marsh Wren	9			2																		
Short-billed Marsh Wren	4	1		9				1														
Mockingbird	887	26	24	164	49		32	42	13	89	27	49	43	23	59	120	36	10	5	21	1	9
Catbird	31	4	6	10	2		3	3	2		1											
Brown Thrasher	157	11	7	53	3		3	14	3	17	1	12	9	3	7	5	7	1	29	219	3	166
Robin	8,183	144	247	3,147	385		217	286	162	53	72	75	750	38	31	20	42	7	29	219	3	166
Hermit Thrush	87	6	16	28			2	4	3	6	1	1	4	1	4	1	4		1	8	4	
Eastern Bluebird	946	32	46	75	14		71	50	31	83	38	27	88	52	30	84	33	2	6	72	18	54
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	9			2																		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	372	7	4	118			3	11		9	58	6	1	1	2	31	6	1			3	106
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	275	61	10	63	4		5	59	15	9	15	4	7	5	3	4	3	4			1	2
Water Pipit	459		50	111	8		1	61				130	45	1					28	25		
Cedar Waxwing	605	6		605			25	110	50	177	69	35	18	18	16	30				30		224
Loggerhead Shrike	267	9	9	22	3		11	24	6	21	10	18	32	9	13	20	1	1		3		5
Starling	520,614	30	495	1,419	520		118	789	27	401	5,077	560	437	756	5,250	501,503	319	56	24	380	10	251
White-eyed Vireo	3	3																				
Solitary Vireo	3	3																				
Orange-crowned Warbler	12	3		9																		
Myrtle Warbler	2,998	153	454	1,764	117		300	7		53	7	2	1	7	3	48	8	6	1	2		38
Yellow-throated Warbler	3	2		1																		
Pine Warbler	165	9	2	20	1		5	63	1	22	9	3	5	7	3	8	1	1				
Palm Warbler	34			23	5		1				2											

Christmas Count

1959

	Individual Totals	Charleston, S. C.	Hampstead, N. C.	Wilmington, N. C.	Morehead City, N. C.	Beaufort Co., N. C.	Rocky Mount, N. C.	Columbia, S. C.	Rockingham, N. C.	Chapel Hill, N. C.	Henderson, N. C.	Raleigh, N. C.	New London, N. C.	Spartanburg, S. C.	Charlotte, N. C.	Greensboro, N. C.	Winston-Salem, N. C.	Lenoir, N. C.	North Wilkesboro, N. C.	Elkin, N. C.	Jefferson, N. C.	Gr. Smoky Mts., N. C.
Yellowthroat	17	8	1	11	1								1									
Yellow-breasted Chat	1			1																		
House Sparrow	3,142	6		193	171	60	41	577	25	79	124	580	150	75	115	409	267	85	17	13	59	96
Eastern Meadowlark	3,352	72		596	145	9	146	634	20	164	192	150	239	64	259	200	124	1	31	2	177	
Red-winged Blackbird	45,390	400		389	812	7,750	44	3,632	1	5		5	54		7	2,500						
Baltimore Oriole	25			2		10	2									1						
Rusty Blackbird	60,360					5		360	80							60,000						
Boat-tailed Grackle	1,854	500		662	19																	
Common Grackle	507,406	2		1,387	240	5,000		1	2							500,056						
Brown-headed Cowbird	189,300	3		46	100	175	336	1,130								187,510						
Cardinal	2,162	109		34	273	46	20	175	37	156	47	81	103	46	90	509	81	49	17	47	65	148
Blue Grosbeak	2			2																		
Evening Grosbeak	296						96		10	42	83	65		68	127	181	53		5	22		47
Purple Finch	999			10	29	2	154	9	1	111	45	40	25			35						15
Pine Siskin	101					8	26	39	4	3	51	25	61	55	123	569	105		9	81	21	135
Am. Goldfinch	1,695	24		29	186	22	25	35	75	35	18	39	46	58	46	95	12	28	12	12	4	31
Rufous-sided Towhee	867	38		22	195		75	3	20	15	2	6	1	8								1
Savannah Sparrow	548	16		100	221	79																
Grasshopper Sparrow	5	1	1						3													
Henslow's Sparrow	6							1														
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	15	3	1	5	6																	
Seaside Sparrow	39	30	1	4																	3	1
Vesper Sparrow	64		17	31	3			13														
Bachman's Sparrow	2		1																			
Slate-colored Junco	8,090	13	140	229	25	375	232	165	50	457	269	580	791	99	965	2,457	263	43	47	180	165	545
Chipping Sparrow	1,436	10	99	256	276	750	10	48	105	50	121	125	86	45	3	554	57	6	47	39	21	268
Field Sparrow	2,252	5	121	185	77	1	36	178								31		1	66	12		280
White-crowned Sparrow	44	35	442	459	78	164	109	339	24	402	180	285	298	115	206	1,016	56	195	66	106	2	
White-throated Sparrow	4,857																					
Fox Sparrow	271	1	25	56	3	51		17	15	22	29	2	3		1		3	2	6	13	10	12
Swamp Sparrow	594	35	17	211	101				12	22		6	2	2		3	140	2				41
Song Sparrow	2,213	70	160	541	32	13	7	142	80	43	31	65	63	12	58	414	23	14	20	57	94	274
Number of species	177	128	112	151	96	71	58	63	63	67	47	62	70	47	51	71	48	40	31	52	82	61
Number of individuals	#	3,932	7,685	48,270	8,416	18,879	4,296	9,634	1,205	3,412	6,940	3,681	4,436	1,827	8,006	1,260,300	1,956	805	961	2,940	644	4,574

* See text for scaup species

Total individuals 1,402,806

RED-WING ROOST

J. W. E. JOYNER

On Saturday, Jan. 9, 1960, I found a red-wing roost 5 miles northeast of Tarboro, Edgecombe County, on Highway 44 toward Oak City. The roost began 50 yards east of the highway at a spot clearly designated by a sign reading, "Oak City 11 Miles—Williamston 29 Miles". To the right, on the back side of a fenced-in pasture, the roost was bordered by bare trees on which perched hundreds of birds, when I arrived at 5:15 p.m. Flocks continued to wheel and drop into the trees, where they rested for a few minutes before fluttering down into the expanse of reed marsh beyond.

This was already nervously alive with noisy hordes of red-wings, their wings aflutter. It appeared that several birds squabbled constantly in their efforts to cling as near as possible to the tip of each and every single one of the acres of canes. I don't know how long before my arrival the roost had been building up, but thousands of birds kept rolling in—always from a westerly direction. Every few seconds a new batch swept in—sometimes only 25 to 50, then a long strung-out wave of perhaps 500 or more. The sun had set at about the instant of my first discovery, but I lingered in twilight watching from the car for 20 minutes. Flocks were still arriving as I left.

On Tuesday, Jan. 12, I drove back to the roost, arriving at 7:05, 17 minutes before "official sunrise" in a cold, calm 40 degree haze through which the sunrise never was seen. The cackling din from the roost poured out to the highway but no birds were yet awing. In the pre-dawn drive I had seen but one bird—a cardinal, always one of the earliest of early birds—which had flitted across the road just a moment before I parked. At 7:10 I heard a bob-white "quirtle" which was followed by a towhee's call and a lisp from a white-throated sparrow. At 7:11 I walked across the pasture to the edge of the roost, flushing a small company of sparrows, but I stopped short of the prickly tangle of Brer Rabbit's briar-patch guarding the "reed-mash". Instead I stood, notebook in hand, by this barrier where at 7:12 a dove flew overhead and a song sparrow's "tusk" was heard above the roaring clatter from the awakening blackbirds.

At 7:14 the first wave of around 500 red-wings erupted from the marsh, wheeled just above the tops of the canes and headed directly west, 50 feet over my head. It quickly gained more altitude and began to disintegrate into a loosely formed flock. This first departure was followed almost immediately by one twice its size. There was by then an ever increasing din of rattling chatter. By 7:16 gangs of 50, 75, 100, 25—5,000, one probably of 20,000 were circling the marsh once and boiling out over the pasture, all toward the west. As these rose higher, they fanned out into wavy strings that reached from the S.S.W. to the N.N.W.—that entire sector of the sky was dotted with them as far as I could see. At 7:17 several flocks arose, arched over the reeds, then settled back down temporarily. A minute later another black swarm of 1,000 rolled from the far back side of the marsh, like a gigantic ocean wave and plunged back into the marsh nearer me. Other smaller flocks took flight. At 7:20 waves of 500—5,000—10,000 began boiling up, once around, then westward again to speckle the murky skies. As these

flocks repeatedly flew off, others were swirling about, often breaking up into smaller groups, some of which pitched down again. From 7:21 to 7:24 countless waves constantly broke away. A Cooper's hawk casually flew under one such flock; neither seemingly paid any attention to the other. Then there was a temporary lull before more and more and more waves of about 500 each broke ties with the roost and soon disappeared into the distance. For fully two minutes flocks must have followed each other every few seconds.

No sound of wing beats was ever noted. If there was any, it was probably drowned out by the cackling of the birds overhead and back in the marsh.

Then at 7:29 a truly massive wave that surely would have blotted out the sun had the clouds not beaten it to this honour billowed above the entire canebrake to literally blacken the skies. For another minute constant flocks of around 500 left, but still I heard the steady din that seemed to have lessened but little. At 7:33 I noted several flocks of around 75 birds. At 7:34: 500—35—100—120—75—100—50 and finally at 7:35 for the first time I was actually able to count accurately: 8 and then just 2.

The flight from the roost had persisted for 21 full minutes. As might be surmised, I made a futile attempt to jot down some estimates of the number of birds involved in this fascinating dispersion. However, for an accurate count of such a roosting population I doubt that even an IBM computer could have done much better. You may take it from here and try to estimate the total from these notes. Personally, I think it's high time for some old-fashioned blackbird pies!

THE WILDLIFE REFUGE AT ORTON PLANTATION

KENNETH M. SPRUNT

The heyday of rice culture along the eastern seaboard reached its peak in the middle of the 19th century. Its production made great fortunes for scores of planters of the Carolinas and extended up as far as the lower Cape Fear Valley, where the choicest rice was grown.

Rice was an expensive crop to raise, and the maintenance of rice-field bankings, ditches, and canals caused severe losses when a crop failed. This cost was often increased by hurricanes which could wipe out the entire crop in addition to extensive damage to the bankings. During the latter half of the past century, deforesting the back country caused more water to flow down the rivers and further aggravated the situation.

At about the turn of the century it was discovered that rice could be raised at a much lower cost and at far less risk in Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas. So rice culture left the Carolinas.

For the most part these rice fields have been abandoned. The bankings being on soft foundation have gradually sunk, and the floodgates and trunks washed out—letting in the flow of the rivers. The elaborate systems of ditches and canals can scarcely be identified in most areas. The soil, rich in minerals and organic matter, has been uncultivated for many years.

The advent of reliable draglines and farm machinery has made it possible to reclaim some of these fields. It is absolutely necessary, however, to construct bankings of enough height to prevent hurricane and freshet damage.

About 1950, it so developed that the North Carolina Wildlife Resources

Commission was looking for property along the lower Cape Fear River which could be reclaimed and made into a resting and feeding sanctuary for waterfowl. This latitude is about a day's flight for a duck from the nearest refuge north (Lake Mattamuskeet) and the nearest one south (Bull's Island, S. C.). It was determined that such an area might be at Orton Plantation, and after a survey the Commission entered into an agreement with the owners for a 20-year lease at no rent for considerable acreage of former rice and pond land. Part of this could be economically brought back into the production of grains and grasses suitable for supplying the food requirements of 10,000 or more ducks.

Work was commenced on a 200-acre field immediately in front of Orton Plantation Gardens and within two years a fair crop of Japanese Millet was raised. In November, the fields were flooded to about 15 inches to make the food available to ducks. Some 2,000 ducks used the refuge for a good part of that winter. Since then better crops of Browntop Millet and Sweet Sudan Grass have been produced, though some have been partially damaged by hurricane winds and flooding. This year a bumper crop was raised and some 6,000 to 7,000 ducks have remained on the lower Cape Fear throughout most of the winter, making the refuge their principal feeding grounds.

Their nature being what it is, the ducks on some occasions will rest and feed in the refuge by day, at other times by night. When they leave, some are seen to fly up or down the river, some toward the ocean and salt marshes and some to inland ponds and creeks. Of course, no hunting, fishing or trespassing is allowed in the refuge area.

Other locations in the acreage under lease are being considered for reclamation, and it is felt that these will be producing food when capacity is reached in the present cultivated area. The long range plan calls for 400 or more acres of cultivated and native food-producing land out of some 1,000 acres wherein the water can be raised or withdrawn.

The most prevalent species of wildfowl utilizing the refuge are Mallard, Pintail, Baldpate, Greenwinged Teal, and Coot. In growing numbers each year are Ringneck, Gadwall, Bluewinged Teal, Black Duck, and Canada Goose. Several other species in small numbers also have been seen there. Among the rare migrants was a young Whistling Swan in 1957. This season, three Snow Geese have made the refuge their winter home since early winter.

Our most distinguished visitors this year are three FULVOUS TREE DUCKS (*Dendrocygna bicolor helva*). This species has a most extraordinary range, being confined to five "colonies" located in India, East Africa, Southeastern South America, Northern South America and in southern United States and northern Mexico.¹ They were first noticed at Orton in mid-January and were still present on February 10, 1960. These ducks are readily recognized in flight by their long necks and legs. The name of this tree duck is a misnomer as they rarely, if ever, light in trees. They are equally at home on a lake, dry field, or a forest and feed generally at night.¹ At Orton they "act" like their "cousins" with which we are familiar, tipping and diving in duck-like fashion.

¹ DUCKS, GEESE & SWANS of NORTH AMERICA by F. H. Kortright.

Fortunately, they have remained in an area close to the Gardens where they have been seen daily for about two weeks. Had they selected a spot to their liking more than 200 feet farther out in the refuge, it is quite likely that they would have been entirely overlooked. When the urge comes to migrate, which way will they go?

Each January, the refuge caretaker conducts a banding operation. Large wire boxes with funnel-like openings are baited with shelled corn, and unwitting ducks find themselves trapped when the caretaker makes his daily rounds. Records are carefully kept, and it has been determined that some ducks have returned to the area from banding the previous year.

A few years ago one Canvasback caught on to the set-up and for a week or two was caught daily with a crop full of free corn. Unfortunately he fell prey to a hungry racoon who also found the trap opening.

The Wildlife Resources Commission has indicated its satisfaction with the results of this refuge thus far, and hunters in the area have enjoyed taking some of those birds which have been lured into their wooden decoys located far up and down the river. Conservationists and sportsmen alike must realize that it is only by the development and maintenance of refuges, both in the wintering and breeding grounds, that our wildfowl can be preserved and not squeezed out of existence by our expanding population.

I SAW THE WORLD'S RAREST BIRD!

JACK P. HAILMAN

Six hundred miles off the coast of North Carolina the Bermuda Petrel, perhaps the rarest bird in the world, is struggling to survive. If the bird is successful, it will be due largely to the efforts of an enthusiastic young Bermuda biologist, David B. Wingate. The Bermuda Petrel, or Cahow (scientific name *Pterodroma cahow*), was presumed extinct for 300 years, until it was discovered breeding in small numbers off Bermuda in 1951. This year just nine pairs bred, and David Wingate showed me one of the six young which still survive.

I stopped at Bermuda on April 6-7, 1960, with the U. S. Navy, and was fortunate enough to visit the small islands in Castle Harbor where the Cahow still breeds. Wingate, whose work is financed by grants from the Bermuda Government Aquarium and the New York Zoological Society, took me by boat to the secret nesting burrows, and explained the ways in which he is attempting to save the Cahow. Unfortunately, the White-tailed Tropic Bird (*Phaethon lepturus*) begins nesting when the young Cahows are still in the burrow and will kill them to obtain the burrow. To save the young, an artificial baffle has been devised just large enough for an adult Cahow to squeeze through, but too small for all but the smallest Tropic Birds. Before the next breeding season, Wingate plans to create some artificial Cahow burrows. The islands where the Cahow still breeds have been declared sanctuaries by the Bermuda government. Already Wingate has made an extensive study of the Cahow's life history which will probably be prepared for publication after a few more breeding seasons. Such careful study will probably suggest other ways to aid the Cahow in recovering from its "last-ditch stand".

The Cahow, somewhat similar to other Atlantic petrels, is a dark capped species, light underneath, with long pointed wings and a white V on its rump. The origin of the name Cahow is obscure, but it may have been named after early descriptions of one of its calls. Like other petrels, these birds burrow deep into the ground and lay but one egg. If the egg or young is somehow destroyed, the adults will not reneest that year. Thus every nest counts in keeping this species alive. In the years since 1951, when the Cahow was rediscovered by L. S. Mowbray and Dr. R. C. Murphy, the entire species has raised only two or three young per year. However, this year nine pairs occupied burrows, and there were high hopes for the nesting season. But due to Tropic Birds and other causes, only six possible nests can produce fledged young—at least there were six when I visited. Because the adults are strictly nocturnal, and because the burrows almost always have a sharp turn in them, few people have ever seen a Cahow. However, one of the burrows shown me by Wingate is shallow, and when I turned my flashlight in, a head appeared out of a fluffy gray ball, and I looked eye to eye with one of the world's rarest birds!

At this point I must hasten to explain that visitors to Bermuda should not expect to be able to visit the secret nesting islands of the Cahow. It would certainly be contrary to my aims in writing this account if it encouraged persons to visit the islands without permission or to put pressure on officials to see the Cahow. If the Cahow sufficiently recovers through isolation and help from trained biologists like Wingate, it might become feasible in a few years to allow interested people to see the Cahow, but now disturbance must be kept to a minimum. Centuries ago, the Cahow bred by the *hundreds of thousands*! Its bones can be found in caves all over the islands. Perhaps it still has a chance to become stable again, although it can never become abundant because most of its former nesting sites have been destroyed by the building of man.

But I discovered from Wingate and his pretty English wife that the Cahow is not the only bird of interest in Bermuda. In the recent *Checklist of the Birds, Mammals, Reptiles and Amphibians of Bermuda* (published by the Bermuda Audubon Society), Wingate lists the hundreds of North American migrants which pass through Bermuda. Wingate himself regularly sees thirty-five species of warblers each fall. Introductions, like the tropical Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) and the European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) add ornithological interest for the American visitor to Bermuda. And the islands have their own distinctive races of the tropical Ground Dove (*Columbigallina passerina*) and White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) which have evolved slightly different sizes, color, and ecology during long isolation from the main populations.

Nor are live birds Bermuda's only attraction. Wingate and I spent part of one afternoon searching some limestone caves for sub-fossil bones of Bermuda birds. In March, Wingate made a sensational discovery: the skeleton of an extinct flightless rail, not previously known to science! I visited the cave where it had been found and removed after a week's painstaking work by Wingate and Dr. P. Brodkorb of Florida. I saw this specimen and many other bones which had come from Bermuda caves. This particular rail probably evolved many thousands of years ago from stray rails blown off course to Bermuda. What finally killed off the rail, one can

only guess. Perhaps pigs or rats brought to the islands by early explorers and settlers over three centuries ago were responsible. Whatever the cause, the distinctive Bermuda rail is gone forever; let us hope the Cahow will have better luck in its struggle for survival.

—Norfolk, Virginia

AN UNDESCRIBED HERON COLONY IN SOUTHEASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

JOHN B. FUNDERBURG

For many years Orton Pond and Battery Island in southeastern North Carolina have been well known as the sites of large colonies of breeding herons (Pearson, 1899, 1920; Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley, 1942; Fleisher, 1920). The Orton Pond colony has been deserted since 1948 (K. Sprunt, pers. comm.), but the Battery Island colony is not only still active, but gradually increasing in size (Quay and Funderburg, 1958). However, there has been another colony in this region for at least forty years. It has never been described and, as far as I can ascertain, was never visited by earlier workers along this stretch of coast, probably because of its isolation and inaccessibility.

This colony is established on one of the series of small islands or offshore banks which fringe the Atlantic Ocean along the North Carolina coast (Funderburg and Quay, 1959). This island, located in Pender County, is bounded by Topsail Inlet on the north and Rich's Inlet on the south (North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission, 1956). It is accessible only by boat and even then only when the tide is high since the narrow, shallow channel leading to the island from the Inland Waterway is un-navigable on low tide.

A transect across the island, which is approximately one-half mile wide in the vicinity of the colony, has the following topographic features. Facing the ocean beach is a line of high dunes which separate the beach from a tidal marsh covered with a dense growth of cord grass, *Spartina alterniflora*, and glasswort, *Salicornia virginica*. Behind this marsh is another line of high dunes which extend almost to Rich's Inlet on the south but taper off at the northern edge of the colony. Between this line of dunes and Topsail Inlet is a broad expanse of sparsely vegetated sand flats and salt marsh. The dominant cover on both lines of dunes is sea-oats, *Uniola paniculata*. A narrow sandy strip separates the inner dunes from a small shallow bay which is completely surrounded by salt marsh, except where the entrance channel flows.

This colony is rather compact but occupies three distinct areas separated from each other by a relatively short distance.

The main part of the colony is located at the base of the landward side of the line of high bay dunes, which effectively screen the colony from the continuous sea-winds. Most of the trees making up the ticket in which the nests are located are dead wax myrtle, *Myrica cerifera*, but there is one partly dead red cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*, in the middle of the grove. The lower branches and downed trees of this part of the colony are heavily overgrown with smilax, *Smilax rotundifolia*, and there is a

dense growth of weeds, such as pokeweed, *Phytolacca erecta*, pigweed, *Amaranthus spinosus*, and cocklebur, *Xanthium pennsylvanicum*, around the perimeter of the grove. None of these weeds grow elsewhere in the coastal marshes of this region. This part of the colony is occupied primarily by common egrets, Louisiana herons, and a few pairs of snowy egrets and little blue herons.

Approximately 200 yards north of the main colony and at the end of the line of bay dunes is a dense thicket of yaupon, *Ilex vomitoria*, and wax myrtle. None of these bushes is more than ten feet high and the understory is a dense tangle of the same weed species growing around the main colony. These bushes are the nesting sites of most of the snowy egrets and little blue herons in the colony. A few Louisiana herons nest in the tangled weed understory, but no common egrets nest in this thicket.

In depressions behind the ocean dunes and along the top of the bay dunes are many scattered clumps of stunted wax myrtles heavily overgrown with smilax and other clumps composed entirely of dense tangles of smilax. Each of these clumps contains one or more nests of the green heron or Louisiana heron. In 1956, only green herons nested in these depressions but by 1958 Louisiana herons had taken over the larger clumps forcing the smaller herons to nest in the low smilax tangles. One green heron nest was on the ground under one of these tangles. This nest, containing two eggs, was merely a depression in the sand formed by the bird's body. Green herons do not nest in the thickets in the main part of the colony.

The average number of breeding birds in the colony is: common egret, 50 pair; snowy egret, 125 pair; Louisiana heron, 150 pair; little blue heron, 35 pair; and green heron, 20 pair. No night herons or glossy ibis have been seen in this colony, although both species have been seen feeding in the surrounding marshes.

It is of interest to note also that no cattle egrets have ever been seen in this colony, although they are known to nest south of Rich's Inlet and north of Topsail Inlet (Quay and Funderburg, 1958, 1959).

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THE BREEDING BIRDS OF BATTERY ISLAND, NORTH CAROLINA

JOHN B. FUNDERBURG

Battery Island, located near the mouth of the Cape Fear River in southeastern North Carolina, is well-known as the site of a large heron colony. Less well-known is the fact that the island also has a small colony of nesting shorebirds and that a number of non-colonial species nest there. Although many colonies of breeding birds along the North Carolina coast contain more individuals, it seems certain that this island has the largest concentration of breeding species in the maritime area of the State.

The heron colony is located in a small grove of live oak, *Quercus virginiana*, and red cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*, with an understory of yaupon, *Ilex vomitoria*. It has been visited and censused repeatedly (Brimley, 1937; Funderburg and DePoe, 1957, 1958; Funderburg and Quay, 1959; Quay and Adams, 1956; Quay and Funderburg, 1958, 1959).

The southern end of the island, separated from the heron colony by a strip of salt marsh, is a sand "lump" thrown up by dredging of the Inland Waterway. In past years the colony of shorebirds nesting there has been much greater than it is at present since vegetation has been steadily encroaching on the bare sand areas utilized by these birds. If this vegetation spread continues at the present rate, there will be no terns, skimmers, or plovers nesting on the island within the next two or three years. Bordering the inner edges of this sandy area is a narrow shrub-thicket zone of scattered clumps of red cedar and wax myrtle, *Myrica cerifera*. The whole island is surrounded by tidal salt marsh which is inundated on every high tide.

Twenty-five species and subspecies of nesting birds have been recorded from this island. In the following account each bird is listed under the habitat in which it usually nests. The habitat classification follows Quay (Vertebrate Fauna of Cape Hatteras Seashore National Park, unpubl.).

A. Salt Marsh; herbaceous; *Spartina-Juncus* complex.

1. Wayne's Clapper Rail, *Rallus longirostris waynei*
2. Wayne's Long-billed Marsh Wren, *Talmatodytes palustris waynei*
3. Macgillivray's Seaside Sparrow, *Ammospiza maritima macgillivrayi*
4. Red-winged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoeniceus*

B. Open Dunes; unvegetated.

1. Wilson's Plover, *Charadrius wilsonia*
2. Gull-billed Tern, *Gelochelidon nilotica*
3. Least Tern, *Sterna antillarum*
4. Black Skimmer, *Rhynchops nigra*

C. Herbaceous Dunes: partially to fully vegetated.

1. American Oystercatcher, *Haematopus palliatus*
2. Willet, *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*
3. Mourning Dove, *Zenaidura macroura*
4. Chuck-will's-widow, *Caprimulgus carolinensis*
5. Florida Nighthawk, *Chordeiles minor chapmani*
6. Southern Meadowlark, *Sturnella magna argutula*

- D. Shrub-Thicket.
 - 1. Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis trichas*
 - 2. Red-winged Blackbird (See A4)
- E. Thicket-Woodland
 - 1. Green Heron, *Butorides virescens*
 - 2. Little Blue Heron, *Florida caerulea*
 - 3. Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis*
 - 4. Common Egret, *Casmerodius albus*

(Continued on page 36)

WILLIAM HARVEY ON SOCIAL FACTORS AND REPRODUCTION

FRANK N. EGERTON, III

The effects of social stimulation on nesting behavior of birds has been studied extensively during the last two decades by such investigators as F. Fraser Darling, N. Tinbergen, John T. Emlen, etc. In the light of present knowledge of such a subject, it is always interesting to find observations of early naturalists in agreement. William Harvey is most famous for his discovery of the circulation of the blood, but his interests were not confined to anatomy and physiology. In his work on embryology, *De Generatione Animalium* (London, 1651), he includes interesting observations on the mating habits of deer and birds, as for example, the interesting passage on stimulation of egg-laying, quoted below. Being the king's physician, he often mentions affairs of the court, but he was not too dignified to make observations in the chicken yard.

. . . common fowl and the pheasant do not only solace their females with their crowing, but farther give them the faculty of producing eggs by its means; for when the cock crows in the night some of the hens perched near him bestir themselves, clapping their wings and shaking their heads; shuddering and gesticulating as they are wont to do after intercourse.

A certain bird, as large again as a swan, and which the Dutch call a cassowary, was imported no long time ago from the island of Java, in the East Indies, into Holland. Ulysses Aldrovandus gives a figure of this bird, and informs us that it is called an emu by the Indians. It is not a two-toed bird, like the ostrich, but has three toes on each foot, one of which is furnished with a spur of such length, strength, and hardness, that the creature can easily kick through a board two fingers' breath in thickness. The cassowary defends itself by kicking forwards. In the body, legs, and thighs it resembles the ostrich; it has not a broad bill like the ostrich however, but one that is rounded and black. On its head, by way of crest, it has an orbicular protuberant horn. It has no tongue, and devours everything that is presented to it—stones, coals, even though alight, pieces of glass—all without distinction. Its feathers sprout in pairs from each particular quill, and are of a black color, short, slender, approaching to hair or down in their characters. Its wings are very short and imperfect. The whole aspect of the creature is truculent, and it has numbers of red and blue wattles longitudinally disposed along the neck.

This bird remained for more than seven years in Holland, and was then sent, among other presents, by the illustrious Maurice Prince of Orange, to his serene majesty our King James, in whose gardens it continued to live for a period of upwards of five years. By and by, however, when a pair of ostriches, male and female, were brought to the same place, and the cassowary heard and saw those in a neighboring inclosure, at their amours, unexpectedly it began to lay eggs, excited, as I imagine, through sympathy with the acts of an allied genus; I say unexpectedly, for all who saw the cassowary, judging from the weapons and ornaments, had regarded it as a male . . .

—Translated from Latin by Robert Willis, London, 1847, p. 188.

Madison, Wisc.

It is not surprising that Harvey made a few mistakes and a very acute observation. Cassowaries do not occur so far northwest as Java. The island was rather the entrepôt through which the bird reached the Netherlands. The bird certainly should have had a tongue. Harvey's description of the feathers is excellent since in cassowaries and emus the main shaft and aftershaft are nearly identical in size and shape.

Harvey could not have known that the sexes are alike, except that the female is larger. Truculence is almost a character of the genus. Remarkably, incubation and probably most of the care of the young is relegated to the male. This situation is not too rare in birds, being found in at least some species of six different orders. The phalaropes afford the only North American instances. —*Ed.*

THE 1960 SPRING COUNT

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN

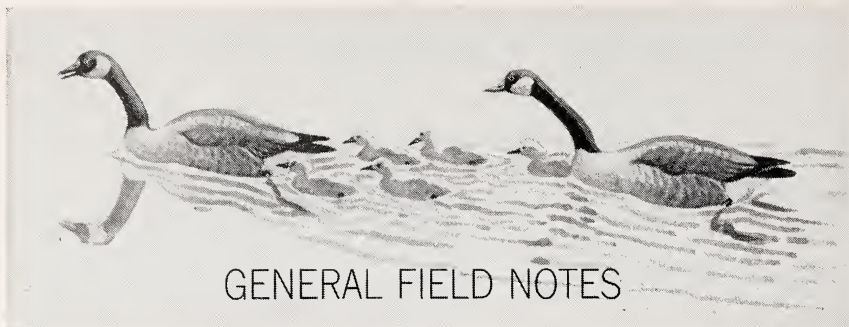
About 135 observers participated in our 1959 Spring counts. Eleven reports were printed in *The Chat*. Two arrived too late to be summarized and re-typed for publication.

We are most anxious to publish a report from every location that is censused in 1960 and in future years. That will not be possible if the counts are not sent in in time for processing. It is not unreasonable to ask a compiler to send his single report within the week in which the count is made when we are sometimes allowed no more than that in which to re-type, summarize—and in the case of the Christmas counts—tabulate, as many as *twenty-two* counts.

To assure a creditable report from your area in the future, please see that you get it to us promptly; that you follow as closely as you can the pattern set by the National Audubon Society; that you use the present-day names standardized by the A. O. U. Check List of 1957; and most important, that you include supporting data for every observation that is unusual. A Prairie Warbler included in a Christmas count from either of the Carolinas, without comment, will be deleted automatically. If the deletion is protested and the observation is then satisfactorily supported, the facts will be carried in a later issue. The inclusion of an unexpected species without even naming the observer will discredit the entire count in the eyes of anyone familiar with bird distribution in our area.

Please note another, and we hope final change of address for all counts and Field Notes material:

B. R. Chamberlain, Wadmalaw Island, S. C.



GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. B. Chamberlain, Robert A. Norris, Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

Fall and early winter arrivals of Evening Grosbeaks indicate another invasion of fair proportions this winter. Scattered reports have come in. For a worthwhile summary we need as complete coverage as possible. Please send us all valid reports you know of, giving dates, numbers, sex ratios, feeding hours, food, behavior or any other related observations that will contribute to our knowledge of how these visitors occupy their time with us. Address your report to B. R. Chamberlain, Wadmalaw Island, S. C.

Fulvous Tree Ducks Again on the Savannah Refuge.—The second South Carolina record for the Fulvous Tree Duck, and the first on the Savannah Refuge, occurred in 1956, when 24 to 27 were observed Nov. 26 to Dec. 5 (*The Chat*, 20:17 and 21:22). On Dec. 15, 1959, 32 were observed and were still present on Jan. 13, 1960. On both visits the birds occupied the same pool along highway U. S. 17. This past year this pool was planted in brown-top millet, and it attracted a large number of ducks, a Whistling Swan, a single Blue Goose and a single Snow Goose. Ivan R. Tomkins and I watched the Tree Ducks for a considerable time, and were surprised at their frequent diving, though little reference is made to their diving in the literature examined. The rear toe is not lobed as with the true diving ducks. The Tree Ducks were broken up into several groups, and one would only have to park off the highway for several minutes before one or two groups would get into the air and circle about the pool, meanwhile giving their squealing notes. Their presence here in Jasper County, South Carolina seems remarkable since they are reported to migrate south in the winter from southwestern United States.

Duck numbers on the refuge were down some from last year, with Mallards, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Wood Ducks and Ruddies showing a decrease. Black Ducks, Am. Widgeon, Shovelers, Ring-necks, scaup and Coot showed increases. This refuge condition does not reflect the status of waterfowl overall. —E. O. MELLINGER, *Savannah River National Refuge*, Jan. 14, 1960.

Fulvous Tree Ducks at Wilmington.—Three Fulvous Tree Ducks appeared at the Orton Wildlife Refuge just south of Wilmington, N. C., on January 18,

1960. The arrival was promptly reported by the observer Kenneth Sprunt to his kinsman Alexander Sprunt Jr., then at Naples, Fla., and immediately forwarded to us. The birds were studied at length during the ensuing weeks by a large number of visitors. John Irvine Jr., of Castle Hayne, one of the observers, informed us that "After a month one disappeared but two remained at least until Mar. 10. A newspaper photographer secured a picture showing all three in flight. The long necks and feet extending far behind the tail show clearly in the photograph—They seemed to stay to themselves but fed in close to the bank and afforded good views."

Fulvous Tree Ducks are listed as Accidentals on the Atlantic coast. However, the appearance this winter and the winter before of groups totaling two to three dozen at the Savannah National Refuge and this present Wilmington observation give grounds for speculation upon future distribution of the species. —*Dept. Ed.*)

Peak Wildfowl Populations.—Winter population of wildfowl at the National Wildlife Management Area at Lake Mattamuskeet, N. C., and at the Savannah River Area, near the South Carolina-Georgia state line are compared in the following figures. We are indebted to W. G. Cahoon at the former and E. O. Mellinger at the latter for their continued co-operation in furnishing population data.

In addition to being separated by approximately 400 air-line miles along the coast of the Carolinas, the two areas have basic habitat differences. Also, they are unlike in both land and water areas. The figures are for the winter of 1959-60.

Species	Peak Populations	
	Mattamuskeet	Savannah River
Whistling Swan	2,000	1
Canada Goose	135,000	none
Snow Goose	200	12
Blue Goose	700	2
Mallard	8,000	16,200
Black Duck	15,000	2,500
Gadwall	5,000	150
Pintail	100,000	13,000
Green-winged Teal	12,000	1,500
Blue-winged Teal	1,000	2
Am. Widgeon	45,000	550
Shoveler	2,000	450
Wood Duck	300	662
Redhead	200	none
Ring-neck	15,000	5,400
Canvasback	200	none
Scaup (mostly Lesser)	25,000	56
Bufflehead	15,000	none
Ruddy Duck	35,000	9
Am. Coot	15,000	Not given

Dates. The highest overall count date at Savannah was Jan. 5. The duck population there fell off after Feb. 17. At Mattamuskeet, the first Canada Geese, about 200 birds, came in on Sept. 17. By the end of September 10,000 were present. The peak, 135,000, was reached around mid-November. Snow and Blue Geese were in greatest numbers between Dec. 20 and 26. The figures shown represent all-time highs for Snows and Blues at Mattamuskeet. Twelve Whistling Swans moved into Mattamuskeet in the third week of October. The peak was reached in December. Ducks came in in substantial numbers in the third week of September and the peak was reached between Nov. 8 and 14. Surface-feeding ducks comprised approximately 71% of the total population. Fifty percent of the diving ducks were Ruddies. Natural food at Mattamuskeet was more plentiful than ever before and all ducks bagged by the hunters were in excellent condition. —B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Wadmalaw Island, S. C. Apr. 15, 1960.*

Black Rail at Wilmington.—Greg Massey carefully observed a Black Rail on Eagles Island, across the river from Wilmington, on Dec. 19, 1959, for five minutes at a distance of from ten to twenty-five feet. The bird was in a small patch of reeds surrounded by water and would not flush from that patch, but ran and flew back and forth from one end to the other. It uttered its call note when small pebbles were tossed at it. The light was good and without glasses Massey was able to see the white speckles on the black back, the faint traces of barring from behind the legs to the tail, the black bill, and the sparrow size. He had seen the species before in Florida. —JOHN M. IRVINE, JR., *Castle Hayne, N. C., April 12, 1960.*

Glaucous Gull at Southport, N. C.—A Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) was spotted at Southport by Waters Thompson about March 1, 1960, and was still present there on April 3. It was seen by many observers (Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Appleberry, Greg Massey, Mrs. Dot Earle, the writer, *et al*) and appeared quite tame. Two observers got within 12 feet of it. Apparently it was a second year individual, for it had the large flesh-colored bill with the black tip (except that the extreme tip was flesh-colored, black extended back to the bend of the bill). The wings were completely white; there was faint buff barring on the under tail coverts and up toward the legs on the lower belly, and a faint buffy or creamy cast on the back and head. The wings, even when folded, were the whitest part of the bird. At a distance it appeared pure white. Sitting on the water at twenty yards, next to an immature Herring Gull, it was noticeably larger, with heavier neck, head, and bill. One field mark that did *not* jibe with the descriptions in the handbooks: the wings extended about half an inch to an inch beyond the tail when at rest. The head and bill, however, precluded its being an Iceland Gull. I am familiar with the Iceland Gull, having studied one at close range in Virginia and this bird had a quite different appearance about the head. I believe the last record for Southport for this species was in 1935 when Thompson collected one and sent it to the N. C. State Museum. —JOHN M. IRVINE, JR., *Castle Hayne, N. C. April 10, 1960.*

Banded Pea Island Laughing Gull Recovered in Cuba.—During the nesting season of 1959, my wife and I banded 27 young Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*) on a small marsh island on the south side of Oregon Inlet on the Outer Banks. One of our aims was to discover where North Carolina born Laughing Gulls spend the winter. A nestling (#525-56904) banded on July 11 was found with a broken wing on January 10, 1960 at Cienfuegos, Cuba. One recovery does not indicate where the majority of the population winters, but it does show that first year Laughing Gulls may migrate a considerable distance to the south. Banding of the young will be continued this year, through the cooperation of the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge on whose property the colony is located. —JACK P. HAILMAN, *6037 Lake Terrace Circle, Norfolk, Va., April 16, 1960.* (Cienfuegos is on the southern coast of Cuba, almost directly south of the Florida east coast.—*Dept. Ed.*)

Golden Plovers and a Red Phalarope at North Wilkesboro.—Hurricane Gracie probably brought two rare species to North Wilkesboro, Wilkes County, N. C. On October 2, 1959, in a field near the airport, I counted 21 Am. Golden Plovers about the edges of a rain pool. I was able to approach closely and study them through 7x50 binoculars. The Am. Golden Plover has been reported in *The Chat* five times in the fall and once in the spring, along the coast in recent years. The present record appears to be the first from western North Carolina since 1886.

On October 16, I had a close view of a **Red Phalarope**. An abandoned river channel, situated in the middle of a corn field, and filled with water was occupied by the bird who was busily engaged in feeding by swimming around in circles after the habit of the family. As it was very tame, I was able to note the large size, lighter plumage, and heavier bill characteristics of this species. The Red Phalarope normally passes the Carolina coast during migration, well out to sea. A large number was found following a storm in 1956 on the Pea Island Refuge on the upper North Carolina

coast. In the fall of 1949 a single Red Phalarope was seen by many CBC members on their fall field trip to Fontana Villiage in Graham County in the extreme western part of North Carolina. —WENDELL P. SMITH, *North Wilkesboro, N. C. Jan. 14, 1960.*

A Murre in Pamlico Sound, North Carolina—The status of the Thick-billed (Brunnich's) Murre, *Uria lomvia*, on the coast of the Carolinas is accidental (A. O. U. *Check-list of North American Birds*, 1957). There are only three records of this species from North Carolina: 1896, Craven County (collected); 1901, Currituck Sound (collected); and a sight record at Pea Island, Dare County, in 1937 (*Birds of North Carolina*, 1942). There has been no report of this species in North Carolina since 1937 (B. R. Chamberlain, pers. comm.). A specimen taken in 1896 constitutes the sole record for South Carolina (*South Carolina Bird Life*, 1949). The Common Murre, *Uria aalge*, has never been recorded south of the New England states (A. O. U. *Check-list of North American Birds*, 1957).

During the morning of February 28, 1960, an ornithology class from Duke University, under our guidance, made a boat trip into Pamlico Sound within the boundaries of the Swan Quarter wildfowl refuge. One murre was positively identified and at least two other birds which may have been murrelets were noted. Owing to shallow water, it was impossible to approach the identified bird very closely, but insofar as it was possible to determine, the black line on the cheek diagnostic of the Common Murre in winter plumage was lacking. It seems probable that this bird was a Thick-billed Murre, but in view of the conditions under which these observations were made, we can only definitely report a murre in Pamlico Sound.

We wish to thank Manager Willie Gray Cahoon and Captain Earl Bass-night, of the Mattamuskeet and Swan Quarter Wildlife Refuges, for making the trip possible, another in a long series of memorable birding experiences which we owe to them. JOHN B. FUNDEBURG, JR. and JOSEPH R. BAILEY, *Department of Zoology, Duke University, Durham, N. C.*

Horned Lark at Wrightsville Beach, N. C.—On Feb. 6, 1960, at 7:15 a.m., I was walking on the road to the sewage plant at the northern end of Wrightsville Beach, N. C., when I heard a bird flying overhead uttering very short and rapid call notes much like those of the pipit. I searched the sky with my 10x50 binoculars but could not locate the bird and assumed it was a pipit.

A few minutes later I heard the call overhead again and this time I managed to find it. It appeared to be just a little larger than a pipit and was flying in wide circles of about two hundred yards at an altitude of about sixty yards. It kept flying in circles and calling for approximately four minutes. Finally, when almost directly over the spot where I stood, it plunged to the ground and landed on a small clump of newly turned dirt about twenty-five feet away from me. I saw that it was an adult Horned Lark.

Moving to within fifteen feet of the bird I watched it for two or three minutes. It had a bright yellow throat and eyeline. As I tried to get even closer it jumped off the clump of dirt and ran for about five feet and stopped. I looked at it for a while longer and left it there.

I am aware that the books state that it is almost impossible to distinguish between the Northern and Prairie Horned Larks unless the specimen is in the hand of an experienced person. Since I was close enough to see all the yellow markings quite clearly, and if the yellow is truly diagnostic, then this bird was a Northern Horned Lark (*alpestris*).

This is apparently the first local record of a Horned Lark in the Wilmington area. —Greg Massey, Wilmington, N. C., Mar. 10, 1960. (A letter from John Irvine, Jr., states that two additional Horned Larks were found on the same day and location. One believed to be Northern and the other, Prairie. —*Dept. Ed.*)

Black-billed Magpie at Chapel Hill, N. C.—The following is condensed from an article prepared by the local newspaper and sent to us by the author: Last Wednesday (Mar. 23, 1960) Mrs. Jack Hogan telephoned to

say that there was a new kind of bird at her feeding station at her home just out of Chapel Hill. Her description brought to mind a magpie and I promptly called the Matt Thompsons, ardent birders, and arranged to visit Mrs. Hogan that morning. We did not find the bird on that trip but we returned during the afternoon and after a half-hour wait a crow-sized bird swooped down over the bait—a piece of calf leg bone Mrs. Hogan had nailed to the fence so the dogs would not carry it off. The bird was a spectacular sight as it made a graceful loop in the air, its long tail streaming out behind it and the broad white stripe across its wings flashing in the sun. It was a magpie, the first ever recorded in this area. Seeing Mr. Thompson and me in the yard, the bird refused to alight on the fence. It flew down on the ground beyond the fence and stayed there a few minutes. Then it flew to a nearby tree, where we had a good view of it through Mr. Thompson's telescope, which he had set up beforehand.

Mrs. Thompson remained at the Hogan home all afternoon and enjoyed many close-up views of the magpie through the window. She called Mrs. Harold Walters and she came out and watched it too. Mrs. Walters had seen many magpies in the West. It was the first the rest of us had seen. It is conjectured that this western bird was driven in this direction by the great blizzards that swept eastward across Texas earlier this month. —JOE JONES, *Chapel Hill, N. C.* (A few years ago a magpie found in eastern North Carolina was later determined by Bill Joyner to be a caged bird at large. In the case of this observation at Chapel Hill there is no reason to believe that the bird did not come east on its own. We know of no other record for North Carolina. —*Dept. Ed.*)

Bullock's Oriole in Eastern North Carolina.—Through the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Conderman of New Bern and Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Davant of Morehead City, the appearance of a male, a female, and an immature Bullock's Oriole in eastern North Carolina this past winter has been well publicized. The birds were found by the Davants at a feeder within a few feet of a window of their home on Evans Street, Morehead City on December 2, 1959, when they returned from a visit to Roanoke, Virginia. Letters and telephone calls brought in scores of observers during the following months, and among them was George J. Ross, U. S. Game Management Agent of the area who is familiar with the species through his earlier residence in the state of Utah. Mr. Ross saw the birds on February 1 and in his letter to us, Feb. 4 stated that "There is not the slightest doubt that the birds observed here are Bullock's Orioles." In describing the male, Mr. Conderman noted "his black cap, eye streak, throat line, shoulders and streak down the center of his tail, his brilliant orange cheeks and throat, lighter belly and tail, and large white wing patch, and typical oriole bill."

The principal food attraction at the Davant's was the feeder containing a mixture of suet and peanut butter. Occasionally native yaupon and holly berries were taken. The Davant home is located in a very thick yaupon and holly grove just a block from Bogue Sound and about two miles from the Atlantic Ocean. The date of departure of the birds will be reported later. A party from Wilmington, N. C., including John M. Irvine, Jr., and the Appleberrys, visited Morehead City, Mar. 19 and saw four Bullock's Orioles in the Davant yard at that time: 1 adult male; 1 female; and 2 immature males.

As far as we know, Bullock's Oriole has never before been found in North Carolina. In reporting its accidental occurrence in southwest Georgia ten years ago, Stoddard (*Auk*, 68; 108) offers, as an explanation of the increasing appearance of Baltimore and Bullock's Orioles in the region, the fact that the "preference of both . . . for largely open country with scattered tree growth is now being met in the Southeast by the extensive areas being opened up for improved pasture - - ." So, although the New Bern orioles doubtless came in on freak winds or wily cold fronts, it is interesting to note that their new location seems favorable to continued wintering or even permanent residence. —B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Wadmalaw Island, S. C.*

Red Crossbills at Greensboro, N. C.—On Saturday, Jan. 16, 1960, at 1 p.m., while in my back yard, I heard and saw a flock of Red Crossbills (*Loxia recurvirostra*) flying over my home in Greensboro. They passed out of sight over my house but appeared to descend into pines just across the street. I immediately got my binoculars and traced them down. I found about a dozen birds seemingly equally divided between males and females. They fed on pine seed for about an hour before moving elsewhere. Several members of the Piedmont Bird Club were notified and they came and watched the birds. They fed in characteristic crossbill manner, hanging on cones, opening the scales, and removing the seed. The trees are Virginia pines about 30 to 50 feet in height. For a while they rested on short dead limbs about 20 feet up and present excellent profiles and the crossed mandibles could be seen well.

As far as I know, these are the first Red Crossbills to be reported in North Carolina since 1953. The winter of 1952-53 brought several small flocks to this state. A flock of 6 arrived at my yard, Jan. 31, 1953 and was seen there off and on until April 24. They also were reported that winter at Winston-Salem, Charlotte, and Matthews, and, in October 1953 at North Wilkesboro (*The Chat* 17:46, 47, 76, and 18:27). —GEORGE A. SMITH, *Greensboro, N. C., January 20, 1960.*

Redpolls near Hatteras and Charleston.—Among the species seeking food off limits to the South this past winter was the Common Redpoll. Several valid observations were made in the Carolinas but adequate information on but one—four birds near Cape Hatteras—has been received to date. South Carolina's first specimen was obtained when a single bird was crushed by a truck operating on Bull's Island and recovered for the Charleston Museum collection. Heretofore the species has been included in the State List (*S. C. Bird Life*, 1949) based upon a sight record by Hoxie at Beaufort, Beaufort County, 1901. The Hatteras report follows:

"On Feb. 7, 1960, near Bodie Island Lighthouse (Outer Banks, Dare County) we—a group of ten Virginia observers returning from Pea Island to Hatteras—watched for some ten or fifteen minutes several Redpolls (*Acanthus flammea*). They were with Savannah Sparrows and we accounted for at least four—all females. One was quite tame and for several minutes we were not more than fifteen feet away. The black chin, red cap on forehead and gray-brown streaks were so easily seen that there was no chance of confusing them with the Purple Finch, a familiar winter bird with us. Redpolls were seen in the Back Bay area of Virginia, Dec. 5, 1959. That observation was reported to Audubon Field Notes, I understand."—JAMES EDWARD AMES, JR., *Driver, Va. Feb. 21, and Mar. 27, 1960.*

Lark Sparrow at North Wilkesboro, N. C.—On November 16, 1959, in an open pasture crossed by a brook, the latter bordered by shrubbery, I found three Lark Sparrows, my first record for the species at North Wilkesboro. I obtained a good view at close range of the black and white head marking and the central black spot on the clear breast. —WENDELL P. SMITH, *North Wilkesboro, N. C. Jan. 14, 1960.* (In recent years the Lark Sparrow has been found several times on the North Carolina coast. Inland records are quite rare. For a recent review of the occurrences of this species see *The Chat* 21:47-48. —*Dept. Ed.*)

Oregon Junco Collected in North Carolina.—On Mar. 3, 1960, my husband and I were astonished to see an Oregon Junco feeding on seeds which had fallen from our feeder to the 7-inch-plus snow covering the ground. The bird looked in bright sunlight exactly like the picture in Peterson's Field Guide, but later views revealed some streaking on the back.—During the following two weeks he was seen several times daily and photographed. From the front he looked like a miniature Towhee with a light colored bill. In the large flock of Slate-colored Juncos with which he almost constantly associated, "our" Junco could easily be recognized because of his very dark head and unusually erect posture. While others would occasionally hold their heads high as if looking around to see what the neighbors were doing, the Oregon Junco did so almost all the time he wasn't picking up food. Upon receiving a request from the State Museum, the bird was

collected and sent to Raleigh. The identification has been verified. A study skin is being prepared and it will be sent to Washington for subspecific determination. —MRS. JACK POTTER, *Zebulon, N. C., Mar. 16, and 17, 1960.*

Tower Casualties at Charlotte, N. C.—Although climatic conditions at Charlotte indicated several "favorable" nights for tower fatalities, there were but few known victims. The following notes, resulting from visits to WSOC-TV tower (1000 ft.), just north of the city are submitted for the record.

October 10-11: (fog and rain)

Pied-billed Grebe,	1	(winter plumage).
Virginia Rail	1	(full plumage).
Swainson's Thrush	1	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	
Red-eyed Vireo	2	
Ovenbird	1	
Catbird	1	

A part of the area around the tower could not be checked because of heavy under-brush

October 12-13: (cloudy and rain)

No casualties found.

October 13-14: (heavy rain, 600' and less ceiling)

Swainson's Thrush	1
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October 16-17:

Brown Creeper	2	
Flycatcher (<i>empidonax</i>)	1	
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	possibly several days old
		possibly several days old

—JOSEPH R. NORWOOD, *Charlotte, N. C. Oct. 19, 1959.*

Briefs for the Files.

Common Loon, 1, Wilmington, Oct. 10, Mrs. Mary Baker and Maurice Barnhill. • Red-throated Loon, first for the winter, Oct. 21, Wilmington, Greg Massey. • Horned Grebe, only record this season, 1, Anderson's Pond, Rocky Mount, Dec. 6, Bill Joyner. • Pied-billed Grebe, only record this fall, at North Wilkesboro, 1, Nov. 2, Wendell P. Smith. • Green Heron, not seen at North Wilkesboro after Sept. 28, WPS. • Whistling Swan, 1 at Ward's Pond, Rocky Mount, Nov. 13, the first local record, Joyner. • Blue Goose, single immature bird arrived at Rocky Mount for first local record, Oct. 18, Joyner; as many as 11 at one time at mouth of the Savannah River, Oct. 21, 22, Ivan Tomkins. • Blue-Winged Teal, 3 at Wilmington, Aug. 8, Greg Massey; 1 at North Wilkesboro, Nov. 3, WPS. • Green-winged Teal, first at Wilmington, Nov. 17, GM. • Broad-winged Hawk, 1, last seen at North Wilkesboro, Oct. 15 WPS. • Sparrow Hawks moved into Beaufort and Hyde Counties, last of July, R. L. Wolff. • Pigeon Hawk, 1, Oct. 15 low over his house; 1 at Golf course, Wilmington, Oct. 11, GM. • Peregrine Falcon, 2, Aug. 5 at Wrightsville Beach, GM. • Virginia Rail, 1 imm., Burgaw, N. C., Sept. 12, 1 adult, Wilmington, Oct. 30, GM. • Sora, 10, Oct. 18; 20 (approx.), Oct. 20; 10, Oct. 21; and 2, Oct. 30, all at dykes at Wilmington, GM. • Common Snipe, 1, Oct. 20; 2, Oct. 30, at Wilmington, GM; arrived in numbers at Savannah about Nov. 5, IT; first, Nov. 2 and last, Nov. 17, at North Wilkesboro, WPS. • Long-billed Curlew, 2 near Tybee Island, Ga., Nov. 2 (1 collected), IT. • Lesser Yellowlegs, 1 at Rocky Mount, Aug. 9, Joyner. • Purple Sandpiper, 1 at Fort Macon, Morehead City, Oct. 24, James Mattocks; first seen around Savannah, Nov. 6, IT. • White-rumped Sandpiper, 1 at Mason's Inlet, Wilmington, Aug. 5, GM. • Stilt Sandpiper, on Hutchinson's Island in the Savannah River, in numbers from mid-September. Greatest concentration, 57 to 120, in October. IT; 3 at Wilmington, Oct. 20, GM. • Am. Avocet, 1, Nov. 28 at Pea Island Refuge, Harold and Barbara Mooney and Richard H. Wagner. • Common Nighthawk, 1, Wilmington, Oct. 5, Cecil M. Appleberry; 1, Wilmington, Oct. 9, Mrs. Mary Baker.

• Chimney Swift, last noted at Rocky Mount, Oct. 17, Joyner. • Western Kingbird, 1 at Hiltonhead Island, lower S. C. coast, Oct. 2, IT. • Olive-sided Flycatcher, first, Sept. 8 and last, Sept. 18, at North Wilkesboro, WPS. • Tree Swallow, came through Savannah area in numbers in late September and on two occasions in October, a flock estimated at 10,000 was in sight, IT. • Barn Swallow, 1, Nov. 27 at Wrightsville Beach, MB and GM. in flight and perched, • Cliff Swallow, 1, Wrightsville Beach, carefully observed, Nov. 27, MB, GM, Mrs. Dot Earle, Mrs. Mary Urich. • Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 heard and seen at Wilmington, Sept. 13, the Appleberrys. • Winter Wren, 1, Oct. 23, Chapel Hill, MB. • Catbird, last seen, Oct. 22, North Wilkesboro, WPS. • Wood Thrush, last at Rocky Mount, Sept. 24, Joyner; last at Wilmington, Oct. 16, Mrs. A; last at North Wilkesboro, Oct. 22, WPS. • Swainson's Thrush, concentration of 15 at Wilmington, Oct. 12, 2, Oct. 17, GM. • Veery, only observation at Chapel Hill, 1, Sept. 24, MB; 1 at North Wilkesboro, Aug. 27, WPS. • Bluebirds appeared to be fully recovered in numbers in the vicinity of Charlotte, J. R. Norwood. • Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2 at Chapel Hill, Oct. 16, MB; 1 at Wilmington, Oct. 17, GM. • Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1 at Charlotte, Oct. 16, JRN; 1 at Wilmington, Oct. 12, GM. • Water Pipit, first, 4 on Oct. 16, and last, 70, Nov. 21, WPS. • Warbling Vireo, 1 at North Wilkesboro, Sept. 16, WPS. • Black-and-White Warbler, nest, 2 eggs, Pickens County, S. C., May 3, Ernest Cutts. • Prothonotary Warbler, 1 at Albemarle, City Lake Creek, Aug. 24, Mrs. John Whitlock. • Blue-winged Warbler, 2, North Wilkesboro, Sept. 18, WPS. • Tennessee Warbler, 33 at Wilmington, Oct. 17, GM. • Cerulean Warbler, male singing at Raven Knob Camp, Surry County, N. C., this summer, there was none last summer, WPS. • Prairie Warbler, 2 at Wilmington, Oct. 17, GM. • Palm Warbler, none found this fall at Hillsboro, Charles H. Blake; 3 at Wilmington, Oct. 17, GM; several in northeast Mecklenburg County, Oct. 4, JRN. • Canada Warbler, 1, Wilmington, Oct. 12, GM. • Baltimore Oriole, 1 at Rocky Mount, Dec. 9, Joyner; 3 females or immatures at feeder at Tarboro, N. C. Jan. 13, 1960, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Marrow; male at feeder for a week prior to Jan. 4, 1960, at Albemarle, Mrs. John Whitlock; several others over the area. • Common Grackles, 12 to 13 hundred, Beaufort County, N. C., Aug. 1; 5 to 6 hundred Redwinged Blackbirds had joined the Common Grackles by Aug. 8, together with about 2 hundred Brown-headed Cowbirds, RLW. • Indigo Bunting, 7, Oct. 16 at Chapel Hill, MB; 150 at Wilmington, Oct. 17, GM. • Painted Bunting, female banded at Harker's Island, N. C., Sept. 26, Joyner; male banded at Wilmington, Oct. 19, CHB. • White-crowned Sparrow, first at North Wilkesboro, Nov. 3, WPS. • Snow Bunting, 1, found again this year at Topsail Beach, near Wilmington, Nov. 11, John Irvine, Jr.

All dates 1959 unless otherwise noted.

Horned Grebes, almost completely absent from our coastal area (Wilmington) all winter, John Irvine, Jr. • Gannet, 1500 estimated in vicinity of Oregon Inlet, Mar. 26, Paul W. Sykes, Jr., Norfolk, Va. • Cattle Egret, 1 near Coburg Dairy (Charleston) Feb. 3 and 19, E. B. Chamberlain; 65 counted in pastures off of Hwy. 17 between Mt. Pleasant and Bull's Island turn-off, Apr. 5, E. A. Williams and Dr. Harry Oberholser. • Scoters, scarce this winter around Wilmington, Greg Massey. • Pigeon Hawk, 1 female, Feb. 23, Rockingham, N. C., Nick Lovin, • Florida Gallinule, 1 captured uninjured, Apr. 17, released Apr. 20 near Winston-Salem, R. H. Witherington. • Piping Plover, 1, standing on shore of harbor at Ocracoke Inlet, Hyde Co., N. C. close range, Mar. 6, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Potter. • Golden Plover, 1 Oregon Inlet, Mar. 5, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Potter; 2 found Mar. 24 in partial spring plumage by Mrs. Dot Earle, a third, in winter plumage joined them at Wrightsville, seen by Greg Massey, Mar. 30. • Common Snipe, "a large flock of about forty birds seen, Mar. 19 on Eagles Island (Wilmington) unique in our experience." John Irvin, Jr., & Greg Massey. • Am. Avocet, 1

(Continued on page 38)



BACKYARD BIRDING

"Backyard" birding sometimes leads us far afield, but it is just as worthy nonetheless and in this case might be termed "barnyard" birding or "back beyond the barn" observing.

Last October Mr. Fred Hill of Eastover, S. C., completed a pond of about 15 acres on his farm two or three miles from town and was almost immediately rewarded with several species of waterfowl. The owner was quite as delighted to see these visitors as were Mr. & Mrs. William Faver, who have made it one of their regular observation posts for bird study.

This pond was built in a ravine just back of a cluster of barns, machinery sheds and farm buildings. A herd of cattle are usually pastured in one or other of the fields rimming the water. The dam is wide enough to drive across thus creating a perfect situation for watching, as the waterfowl quickly became used to occasional trucks, tractors and other vehicles going back and forth over it.

Early poachers were threatened with the law and dispensed with by federal posting of the area surrounding the water. It is also patrolled by federal wardens.

Later in November, Mr. Hill reported a Canada Goose and "something else" were on the pond, the latter turning out to be an immature Blue Goose without the plumage of the white head and neck. Gordon Brown of the S. C. Wildlife Resources Department, took some excellent shots of the *Branta canadensis* and our rare visitor, the Blue. The Fall issue of the S. C. Wildlife magazine carries a cover photograph of these two species on Mr. Hill's pond. Gordon says he walked right up in front of them and got the shots. They were undisturbed.

A week or ten days before these geese appeared, five Canadas were seen by Gordon on the Marion Burnside farm just east of Columbia, then in December five came down on the Hill pond and stayed for several days. It isn't too wild a guess that the five were the same, since Eastover is perhaps 20 miles further, as the crow flies, in the same southeasterly direction.

Winter before last, Mrs. Faver identified a Blue Goose on the small pond belonging to Mr. C. M. Haithcock. It came in October and stayed until June 4. It changed to mature plumage before leaving.



Canada Goose and Blue Goose on Hill's Pond. Photo by Gordon H. Brown.

South Carolina Bird Life lists the Blue as a "rare winter visitor from October to April 26, chiefly in the coastal region". Eastover is about 100 miles from the coast.

On the Christmas Count this year (1959) on December 28, my sister, Natalie Curtis of the Alan Devoe Bird Club, Chatham, N. Y., Mrs. Faver and I counted three Ruddy Ducks, six Wood and over 100 Ring-necks and a Pied-billed Grebe on the Hill Pond, besides the two geese.

January 11 of this year, Mrs. Faver reports that she and William sat in their car most of that afternoon watching the activities of nine species of waterfowl. They identified three new species: A pair of Pintails, a pair of Baldpates and two pairs of Shovellers.

It is a fine thing for any one of us to be able to extend the horizon of a backyard, garden or wooded hillside, which is the setting of the Faver home where most of your Backyard Birding editor's observations must of necessity take place.

But *now* a new chapter of experience is opened up and I'll wager whenever the opportunity arises to get outside the door to watch birds, the first question will be, "Haven't we time to run down and see what's on Mr. Hill's pond?" —Kay Sisson, 1617 Tanglewood Rd., Columbia, S. C.

A very newsy letter from Mrs. A. W. Bachman of Henderson, N. C., reached me last week, telling of having a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches as regular visitors to her feeders. Most of us are considered fortunate if we see one in our yards, and in central South Carolina we have not had a report in several years. We hope Mrs. Bachman will get some pictures and send us a story of her visitors.

I am always glad to have letters from our CBC friend telling of birds seen in their yards and in their neighborhoods. It is not often that I have the opportunity of visiting these yards in person. But I am writing this

from the home of my daughter at Fayetteville, after having spent the morning in the home of Mrs. Roscoe C. Hauser, watching her birds. For awhile after arriving, all was quiet in the yard and then, one by one, the Purple Finches began dropping down from the tall pines overhead. Lead by several males in their rosy brilliance, they soon covered the feeder and the ground under it. Then two female Evening Grosbeaks landed in the midst of the feeding board and began eating the sunflower seeds. When two Starlings came, one Grosbeak defended her section of the board by challenging him with open beak. The other gave up and flew on into the trees. Occasionally, Blue Jays would come to the food on the ground at the top of the stone wall, and as suddenly, all birds would disappear. On a smaller feeder to the right of the shelf, a male Evening Grosbeak posed for his picture, and I could not resist snapping it, even though the window was between us, and I can scarcely hope that it will be much good. A female joined the male, and I moved to try another picture from another angle, and they both left. . . . to go high in the pines. Since it was by this time nearly noon, we did not see them again. Other birds at these feeders were Pine Warblers, a Mourning Dove, Mockingbird, Brown-headed Nuthatches, Cardinals, Chickadees, White-throated Sparrows, a Red-bellied Woodpecker, one or two House Sparrows, and several Juncos and Towhees. For this delightful coffee hour with the birds, we had been joined by Mrs. Neil Currie, Jr.

In the afternoon, Mrs. Hauser and I went to visit Mrs. L. E. Whitfield at her lakeside home. In front of her house, a small artesian stream of water trickles down from a rocky ledge and makes its way between moss and fern covered banks across the yard. Mrs. Whitfield explained that during migration this is a favorite bathing place for many warblers. From her livingroom window, we looked out . . . across a wonderful screened porch . . . to the many feeders dotted about among the small trees and shrubs down to the water at the foot of a broad path. Here we added to our list of birds a Downy Woodpecker, a tiny Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a Song Sparrow, and one beautiful big Fox Sparrow. On the lake, we found a pair each of Ring-necked, Mallard, and Canvas-back Ducks. Driving past cultivated fields on the way to take me back to my daughter's, we watched several large flocks of blackbirds. One group was largely made up of Cowbirds. With the passing traffic, the birds were always flushed before we could fully identify all the species. There were many Redwings and some Rustys. In a field in which the young grain was about three inches high, we saw a flock of Pipits fly up, then settle back. From the calls, we decided that there were also Horned Larks there. But although there surely were a hundred or more birds, we only saw three Pipits feeding along a little ditch in the field. The others were as completely hidden as if the ground had opened and swallowed them. So ended a wonderful day of birding with CBC friends at Fayetteville.

We are always glad to hear from those ardent birders, Betty and Sam Davis. Their letter was as follows:

Route 2, Box 3,
Hayesville, N. C.
March 11, 1960

Dear Mrs. Faver,

We enjoyed reading about the baldheaded cardinals in the last issue of the *Chat*. Last spring we noticed a male cardinal that was looking ragged. When the editor of the Audubon Magazine, Mr. John K. Terres, came to visit us in May, we showed the cardinal to him. We decided he had been fighting. Every time another male came to the feeders he would run him off. "Mr. Baldy" (that is what we called him) would bring his sons to the post feeder and feed them. Then we noticed another male losing his feathers, and at first we thought Baldy was pulling them out. By this time, Baldy didn't have any feathers on his head or neck. Then in the fall we started worrying about them since they had lost most of the feathers on their backs too. We were sure they would freeze to death, and we kept wondering if it could be the food we were putting in the feeders that made them shed their feathers. They sure did look pitiful. They were as black as tar. One day a little boy was passing by, and called us out to see a new bird. It was Mr Baldy. Just when we thought they would surely freeze, they started growing new feathers, and in a few weeks were as beautiful as the other cardinals that visited us. We are surely glad to know that other people have had baldheaded cardinals too, and that it wasn't our food that was causing them to lose their feathers.

We have Evening Grosbeaks this winter for the first time! They first came to our yard on February 1, and since then we have seen them almost every day. Mother got a permit to band birds and we have been helping her the past two weeks. So far, we have banded nineteen different kinds. Every time the grosbeaks come to our yard we hold our breath and wish they would go into our traps so we could band them. How we do wish we could band just one!

We have been to school only one day this week. Last week, we had an ice storm that broke most all the trees, and this week we have had snow.

Sincerely,

Betty and Sam Davis, Jr.

More about injured birds:

Box 3701, Duke Hospital
Durham, North Carolina
January 29, 1960

Dear Mrs. Faver,

I was much interested in the notes about the bald-headed Cardinals, as I, too, had noticed such birds at my window feeder. In May 1955, a female cardinal came daily to the feeders. She looked as if her whole scalp had been torn back and was hanging down her neck. At first, she was very feeble, but in a couple of weeks seemed quite well. The other cardinals seemed to resent her and drove her away from the feeding tray, so that in a few days she came only when there were no other birds there.

I saw her off and on all that summer and the following May she was still with me, but had a cap of soft grey feathers on her head . . . no crest. Is this possible if her scalp was actually torn off, as it appeared to be? Perhaps shreds of it were still left on the skull.

March-June, 1960

On November 10, 1958, I saw another female cardinal with the top of her skull bare and some skin and her crest hanging on the back of her neck. She was quite healthy, as if it wasn't a very recent accident. Another female drove her away from the drinking fountain. She was around all that winter, and by January 9, 1959, had nearly grown a new crop of feathers on her head.

On September 12, 1959, a bald female Towhee came to the window feeder. I had a Pied-billed Grebe on a half acre pond on our summer place on Route 21 between Roaring Gap and Sparta. We saw it first on October 24, 1959, and last on Nov. 9. (We were there only for week-ends in the fall.) By December 10 when we went up, it had left.)

Since starting this letter, I have observed a Downy Woodpecker clinging to the seed pods of a trumpet creeper vine and pecking long slits about one-eighth of an inch wide in them. This was on Feb. 9. This was a male, and he was so intent on his work that I stood less than eight feet from him for twenty minutes. He did not appear to be after the seeds, some of which floated to the ground. Perhaps there was some sort of insect in the pods. I counted seven pods with these slits in them, all within ten feet of the ground on this one pine tree, but have not found any similarly attacked pods on the other pines.

Sincerely,

A. Davison

(Mrs. W. C. Davison)

From Nick Lovin came the following report and picture:

Usually a Yellow shafted Flicker will pass the winter nights on a dead tree limb or in an old tree cavity. But on January 6, 1958 I found the winter home of a Flicker in, of all places, an unused chimney.



The Flicker's
Chimney.

For several nights I watched the Flicker come to its resting place. Before returning to the chimney for the night the Flicker surveyed the area for a few minutes using a tree close to the chimney as an observation point. Quickly, feeling secure, the bird darted straight for the chimney and entered it without any trouble.

The Flicker used the chimney until late January. Almost always it was long after sundown when the Flicker came to rest. The Flicker was a male and with the first warm days of February, he probably became impatient and started seeking a mate.

No Flicker, or any other bird, has used the chimney as a nesting site or winter resting place January 1958.

Albemarle, N. C.

Feb. 9, 1960

Dear Mrs. Faver,

I have a large maple tree in my yard which has been oozing sap for the last several weeks. I have found that it is a refreshment bar for the birds, as they sit and drink the droplets as they run down and lodge in the crotch of a limb. I have seen myrtle warblers, kinglets, of course, sapsuckers, and I've noticed that the male Baltimore Oriole that is wintering here especially likes it. Maybe this is a common feeding ground and I just had never noticed.

I have reported the oriole to Mrs. Norwood and Mr. Chamberlain. I have an idea it is one of a pair that stayed here last winter. I've wondered where Mr. Oriole is. A neighbor spied him before Christmas, but I saw him first in December 30 . . . the day after our Count!

Best wishes,

Vivian Whitlock

(Mrs. John Whitlock)

2714 Shenandoah Ave.

Durham, N. C.

January 26, 1960

Dear Mrs. Faver,

While spending the Christmas Holidays with my sister in Sanford, Florida, I had some interesting bird experiences (at least, interesting to me, relatively new to the joys of birding.) We visited Alexander Springs in the Ocala National Forest, and went on a boat trip of about an hour in a little paddle-wheeler. But even in that short period of time we saw many anhingas, coots, American egrets, a few Florida gallinules, a Louisiana heron, a limpkin, and a red-shouldered hawk. There were others which I could not identify. I recommend this spot to visit when one is in central Florida. At Lemon Bluff, near Sanford, we went out to check on some white pelicans a sportsman had told us about, and there they were—quite a number of these big birds on a little sand spit! We didn't see them in flight, but we got a good look at them through our glasses resting and walking around.

In an old cemetery in Enterprise (across the river from Sanford) someone has a bird feeding station at the grave of a friend or relative, and

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although we didn't see any there, we were told that at certain times many birds come and can be seen while one is parked in the car at the fence.

Sincerely yours,
Wilhelmina B. Lemen

Has anyone else tried Mr. Chamberlain's idea of putting up "owl eyes" on a big window? Doris Hauser relates:

I was having a pretty dreadful series of Purple Finch casualties at the den window . . . one or more a day . . . when birds would fly up in alarm from the Baffle Feeder, and the finches (stupid, blind things) would hurtle themselves at the window, even into the screened portion. I hunted through the old *Chats*, trying to recall something I had seen, and found Rhett Chamberlain's picture of the Owl Eyes on his picture window. I promptly cut out and colored some, and stuck them to mine in one of the squares. It has cut down the flight error considerably, and did so immediately . . . I have found only one dead bird in the past week. Apparently it acts as a last minute warning, so that they veer away, although the eyes do not deter any of them from feeding there, or at the window feeder.

. . . A. R. Faver, Dept. Editor, *Eastover*, S. C.

(Continued from page 20)

5. Snowy Egret, *Leucophoyx thula*
6. Louisiana Heron, *Hydranassa tricolor*
7. Black-crowned Night Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli*
8. Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus*
9. Fish Crow, *Corvus ossifragus*
10. Boat-tailed Grackle, *Cassidix mexicanus*

Although Battery Island is easily seen from the waterfront of the fishing village of Southport, N. C., directly across the Inland Waterway from the island, these birds are not molested. Visiting ornithologists can easily make arrangements to cross to the island by contacting any of the boat liveryies in Southport.

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NOTES AND NEWS

When Mrs. James Simmons told of a Wood Thrush in Chapel Hill in December, I thought of some questions one ought to ask the bird. "Why did you not migrate further south and how far did you migrate? How have you managed to survive this long? What do you think are your chances of surviving until spring? If you do, will you go north or stay here?"

Are we, perhaps, looking at extensive changes in the winter ranges of some species? Yellow-breasted Chats in Nova Scotia and groups of Baltimore Orioles regularly at certain places north to Cape Cod in midwinter are more striking examples. It would seem that some of these birds could scarcely have migrated far before taking up winter quarters.

I have often thought that we might learn much about some of these cases if we could persuade all bird watchers to report to a central compiler in detail on a few selected species each year.—CHB

The B. R. Chamberlains are now in residence at Wadmalaw Island, S. C. We wish them a long and happy retirement. Please send your observations on the Evening Grosbeak to Mr. Chamberlain and a summary to Mrs. B. M. Shaub, 159 Elm St., Northampton, Mass. Mrs. Shaub is concerned with times and places over the whole eastern range of the species.

CBC

The winter field trip centered on Little River, S. C., and was excellently managed by the Wilmington Natural Science Club. The ducks on the refuge pounds at Cherry Grove were the birds of particular interest. The local Methodist Church was lent us for the Saturday evening session. The highlight was Mr. Schiele's movies of the Bear River Marshes, Utah, and the bird rocks off Percé, Québec.

CBC

The hosts for the annual meeting in March were the Piedmont Bird Club in Greensboro, N. C. The usual reports were given and the election of officers was held. The new officers are listed on the back cover. There were two excursions, one to a large blackbird roost. Mrs. Margaret Wall spoke on the identification of warbler songs, accompanied by excellent recordings. Mrs. Roscoe Hauser presented an enlightening paper on sunbathing by birds. A banquet was held on Saturday evening.

Correction: The Snow Bunting reported on the Greensboro Christmas Count was later trapped and proved to be an albinistic Junco.

in full breeding plumage near Oregon Inlet, Mar. 26, probably present all winter, Paul W. Sykes. • Great Black-backed Gull, 53 counted on small island near Oregon Inlet, Mar. 26, Paul W. Sykes, Jr. • Bonaparte's Gull, 15, Salem Lake (Winston-Salem) Apr. 12, the John R. Gatewoods. • Short-eared Owl, 1 watched for about 10 minutes, Mar. 26 near Oregon Inlet, Paul W. Sykes, Jr. • Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 1, Apr. 1 & 2, Murrell's Inlet, S. C., the John R. Gatewoods. • Hairy Woodpecker, 1, Jan. 1, Charlotte, the Joseph R. Norwoods. • Eastern Phoebe, present in normal numbers around Wilmington, John Irvine, Jr. • Rough-winged Swallow, 10 to 15, Jan. 23 at Savannah River Refuge, Eugene Cypert and party with Ivan Tomkins. • Purple Martin, 4 males, Feb. 16, 1 female, Feb. 26, Rockingham, N. C., Nick Lovin. • Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1 fed at suet feeders all winter at Spartanburg, the first noted there in 5 or 6 years, J. O. Watkins, M.D. • Brown-headed Nuthatch, 2 at E. M. Hodel's feeder at Elkin, N. C., in mid-December and have wintered in the neighborhood, Linville Hendren. • Hermit Thrush, abundant in Wilmington area as compared with last winter, John Irvine, Jr. • Yellow-breasted Chat, 1, Magnolia Gardens (Charleston), Feb. 11, Ted Beckett. • Summer Tanager, 1 male, Brookgreen Gardens, Mar. 31 and 1 male, Myrtle Beach, S. C., Apr. 1, the John R. Gatewoods. • Dickcissel, 1 male at feeder, Mar. 18, 19, Lenoir, Margaret Harper; 1 young male intermittently at feeder for some months, last seen on Mar. 20, Mr. & Mrs. George F. Ricker, Gardens Corner, Beaufort County, S. C. • Evening Grosbeak, apparently in greater numbers than ever recorded. Please see that your area is reported giving departure dates for our summary. • Pine Siskin, absent last winter in the Wilmington area, appeared there, 1, Dec. 5; 4, Dec. 23; 1, Apr. 1, Greg Massey. • Tree Sparrow, 1 feeding in driveway, Mar. 22 and 23, Mr. & Mrs. John R. Gatewood; 1, Mar. 9 through 18, Dr. & Mrs. T. W. Simpson; 1, Apr. 10, Dr. & Mrs. J. P. Davis, all at Winston-Salem. • Fox Sparrow, apparently well spread and in good numbers, 4 at Ridgeway, S. C. Mar. 9, Mrs. Hattie S. Willes. • Snow Bunting, 1, watched at feeder at close range for most of the afternoon of Feb. 21, Mrs. Gordon Sprott and the J. A. Selbys from Canada.

All dates 1960.

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The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, chiefly in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

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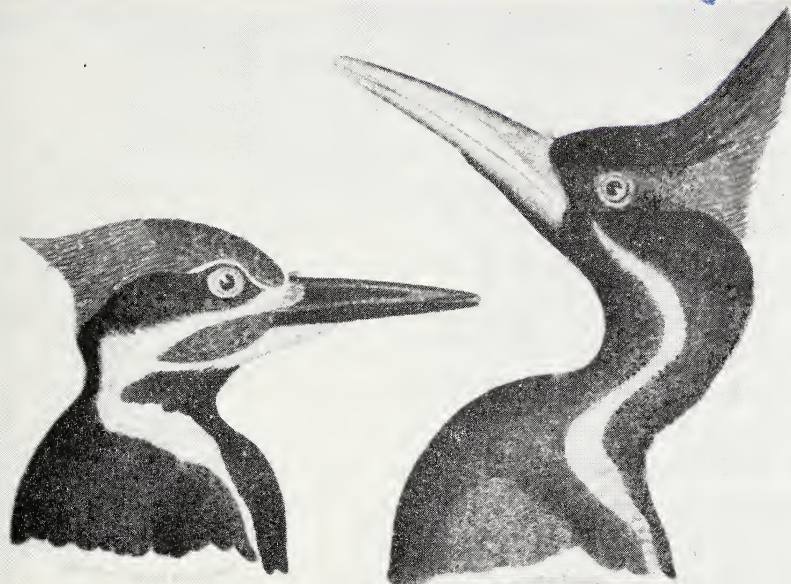
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The Chat

EVENING GROSBEAKS STAGE THEIR FIFTH INVASION

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN

Two years ago the writer recorded the 1957-58 incursion of Evening Grosbeaks into the southeast (*Chat*, 22:51-54). Reports on that visitation were readily offered for publication because the Evening Grosbeak was still an addition to the Life-list of many of our people at that time and therefore something to talk about and write about. For months nothing was too good for the visitors. Feeders were stocked and re-stocked without stint. By late spring, however, as the mounting cost of sunflower seed was reckoned, enthusiasm waned. Last November, when a group of Evening Grosbeaks dropped into central North Carolina heralding the return of these big birds with their voracious appetites there was little enthusiasm for them in some quarters. As the winter wore on, their spread into the Carolinas and Georgia was followed largely through repeated inquiry and, with some notable exceptions, details of their sojourn were scarce.

The information received has been grouped under five headings: Locations, Dates, Numbers, Observers, Remarks. The findings are briefly summarized as follows.

Locations.—North Carolina, 37; South Carolina, 12; Georgia, 4. From general comments, these are but a fraction of the number of communities where Evening Grosbeaks might have been found in our region this past winter. Penetration reached at least as far south as Columbus, Ga. (32°, 28' S; 84°, 0' W). This is a matter of a few miles south of the 1957-58 penetration (Livingston, Ala.) More westerly observations, beginning on Jan. 22, were made at Chattanooga, Tenn. (85°, 20' W.)

Dates.—The first birds reported were found on Nov. 11 (Durham, N. C.). There were extremely few reports during the rest of November, December, and much of January. From mid-February to the end of April the birds were widely spread and most of the reports fall within that period. Evening Grosbeaks were last recorded, May 15 (Atlanta, Ga.). At least one was in the Atlanta area on May 15.

Numbers.—Seven birds, one a male in high plumage, were the first to be reported in this winter's invasion. In the last report there was a group of 20. Peaks doubtless occurred between mid-February and the end of April but the possibility of determining a peak or peaks is blocked by the two severe snow storms in February and early March. Hard and deep snow forced the birds to mass about the feeders that were maintained and to desert the others. Local increases may have been nothing more than intra-region shifting. In general, the larger groups were in the order of 25 or 50 birds. In no case did the estimate of a single gathering exceed "200 or more."

Remarks.—These are brief comments upon food, sex, behavior, banding, etc. Some native food is noted. In one case a group consumed 100 pounds of sunflower seed in a week or less. Some banding is noted, including some interesting recoveries. These were from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania. With one exception they were banded early in 1959. The exception was a female banded in Massachusetts, Mar. 1, 1953. That bird was over seven years old.

The presence of Evening Grosbeaks in good numbers in the southeast this past winter again presented opportunities to learn more about these unpredictable nomads. The first known flights to reach the Carolinas took place during the winter of 1951-52. The present invasion is the fourth since that time and each in succession has brought more birds than the one before. Not all have been of extensive duration. Limited sampling has told us *where* some of them came from and the chances are that all are from the same general region. *Why* they came is another matter. What is the relationship between the appearances here and the appearances in the New England states? In attempting to answer this we have totalled the results of the Christmas counts in those states. Obviously we cannot use our Christmas counts for similar data since so few birds have reached us by that time. It is likely that the New England counts are fair indicators of the winter populations there. In the following tabulation, the New England figures were compiled from 45 locations, most of them reporting regularly, over the past *six* winters (10 in New Hampshire, 5 in Vermont, 18 in Massachusetts, 2 in Rhode Island, 10 in Connecticut). These apparently hold the bulk of the New England Evening Grosbeak concentrations.

Winter	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60
Totals of 5						
New England states counts	2369	4736	20	2201	3791	4801
Size of flight to the Carolinas	Good	Major	None	Major	None	Major

There are two points of interest in this comparison: contrary to expectation flights to the Carolinas took place in two successive winters (1954-55 and 1955-56); and, in the winter of 1956-57 New England had almost no Grosbeaks and none came south; *in the winter of 1958-1959, when New England had a heavy population, none came south into our region.* This is a change of pattern toward a true extension of range, as far as New England is concerned. This is supported by recent extensions of breeding into mid-western Massachusetts. Apparently the Evening Grosbeak is moving toward the permanent resident list in New England while retaining its status of nomad with us.

A listing of the reported observations of the winter of 1959-60 is appended.

References.

- Audubon Field Notes.* 9:74-84; 10:73-82; 11:78-88; 12:76-86; 13:86-96; 14:97-108.
- The Chat.* 16:26, 30, 64; 19:29, 67; 20:61; 22:51-54. Chamberlain, B. R.
- Bird-Banding.* XXX:226-228. Shaub, Mary S.
- The Chattanooga Chat.* No. 7, Feb. 1960. Comstock, Rock L. Jr.

Appendix

Locations and dates.	Number and sex.	Observer and remarks.
North Carolina.		
<i>Asheville</i>		
Jan. 27	7	Martina Wadewitz, Came at 10:45 a.m.
"in Feb."	8-16	Mrs. H. F. Manning. At feeder.
March	24 or more	Mrs. H. F. Manning. Note dated Mar. 9.
Mar. 16	14	Henry T. Sharp. At window-sill feeder.
Feb. 22	"quite a number."	Norman L. Anderson, MD. Letter, Mar. 7.
Mar. 1-7	5	Norman L. Anderson, MD. During heavy snow.
<i>Bath</i>		
Dec. 25	2-F	Geraldine Cox. First noted.
Dec. 29	6	Geraldine Cox, actually near Washington, N. C.
Jan. & Feb.	4-5, highest count, 7-F & 4-M	Geraldine Cox. A smaller number in March & April.
May 4	1-M, 1-F	Geraldine Cox. Last appearance
<i>Beaufort Co.</i>		
Apr. 24	5	Geraldine Cox (compiler—spring count)
<i>Black Mt.</i>		
Jan. 11	Flock of 38	Robert Overing of Atlanta, Ga.
<i>Brevard</i>		
Feb. 9	Flocks of 25	Mrs. Gordon Sprott. Several flocks.
Mar. 15	57 or more	Margaret Bridges. These birds had been present about 3 weeks.
<i>Burlington</i>		
Mar. 20	"a nice flock."	James E. Ames, Jr., of Driver, Va.
<i>Chapel Hill</i>		
Dec. 11	About 30	Edward D. Greaves, MD., of Portsmouth, Va. Fed on maple seed. They were still present, Jan. 9.
Dec. 27	42	L. A. Ripperton (compiler, Christmas count).
May 1	6	L. A. Ripperton (compiler, Spring count.)
<i>Charlotte</i>		
Jan. 23	1-M	Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Norwood. Wild food.
Jan. 28	1-M; 1-F	Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Norwood (taken: Winged sumac)
Apr. 17	12-M; 15-F	Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Norwood (Redbud, Willow)
Mar.-Apr.	"over 200" Peak	Mr. & Mrs. E. O. Clarkson. About 40 until mid-April, 100 lbs. Peak.
May 13	1-M; 1-F	Mr. & Mrs. E. O. Clarkson sunflower seed lasted less than a week.
<i>Concord</i>		
Feb. 14	3	Mrs. Janie Patterson Wagoner. Snow and ice.
<i>Durham</i>		
Nov. 11	7 (1 adult male)	John B. Funderburg. Feeding in pines. No debris falling.
Dec. 20	12	Hallam Walker. Remained until mid-March.
Feb. 13, 14	1-M; 1-F	Oscar Pickett. Female only, Feb. 14.
<i>Elkin</i>		
Jan. 10-12	"singles"	Linville Hendren.
Feb. 13	5 to 25	Linville Hendren. Reappeared following 12" snow in several sections.
Mar. 9	8-M; 9-F	Linville Hendren. With 3rd., Snow Storm.
April	5 flocks	Linville Hendren. "present"—Letter, Apr. 8
<i>Elm City</i>		
Feb. 13	"large numbers"	Mrs. T. B. Winstead. Several at feeder. Flocks observed by neighbors.

<i>Fayetteville</i>			
Mar. 2 & 3	"a pair"		Mrs. John A. Oates. During "the snow."
<i>Goldsboro</i>			
Since Jan. 5	3-M, 5-F		Ann Westmoreland. Note dated Jan. 16.
<i>Greensboro</i>			
Jan. --	?		Mrs. Robt. E. McCoy, compiler. Noted during period of Christmas count, Jan. 2.
Mar. 16	3-F		Mrs. R. E. Peck. "Drank from dripping icicles."
March	—		George A. Smith. "At nearly every feeding station." Letter, Mar. 20.
<i>Henderson</i>			
Nov. 28	some		Mrs. A. W. Bachman. In Country Club area.
Nov. 29	5-M, 11-F		Mrs. A. W. Bachman. Ate pine cone seed.
Apr. 30	32		Mrs. A. W. Bachman, compiler, Spring count.
Dec. 28	83		Mrs. A. W. Bachman, compiler, Christmas count.
May 3	1-M, 1-F		Mrs. A. W. Bachman, last seen.
<i>Hickory</i>			
March	—		J. Weston Clinard. "Several reports in different sections—2nd. wk. of Mar.
<i>Hillsboro</i>			
Dec. 26	1-F		
Mar. 1-7	maximum of 10-F, 2-M		No feeders in the three miles between his station and Hillsboro proper where they were numerous—Letter of Charles H. Blake.
<i>Jamestown</i>			
Feb. 14	1-M, 1-F		Mrs. W. G. Ragsdale, Jr. Female came first.
Feb. 16	11 pair		Mrs. W. G. Ragsdale. About 50, the following week.
Mar. 8	94		Mrs. W. G. Ragsdale. At feeder during heavy snow. 90-odd remained 4 days, then, 50.
Mar. 24	8		Mrs. W. G. Ragsdale. "Now present." Letter: Mar. 24.
<i>Laurinburg</i>			
Jan. 6	"pair"		Mrs. Thomas John. Increased to sixty later.
<i>Lenoir</i>			
Mar. 3	13		Margaret Harper. At feeder during deep snow. "Tremendous flocks in Beall St. area."
<i>Mocksville</i>			
Mar. 4	2		James H. Jones. Along Hwy. where snow had been pushed back.
<i>Monroe</i>			
Mid-Feb.	1-20		Mrs. Clarence E. Norman. Daily visitors, present Mar. 8.
<i>New London</i>			
Apr. 30	32		Mrs. Barrett Crook, Mrs. John Whitlock, joint compilers on Spring count.
<i>Raleigh</i>			
Dec. 6	60		Thomas L. Quay. Two flocks of 30 each over yard.
Dec. 27	about 50		Thomas L. Quay. Several flocks about the city.
Dec. 31	4-F		Mrs. Robert Jackson.
Apr. 26	1		Donald A. Cilley. Normally 6-10 at window. Fed over 50 lbs. sunflower seed.
Apr. 27	1		John Coffey, Jr. Banded over 93. Recoveries:
Jan. 10	1		Banded, Groton Mass., Feb. 8, '59.
Jan. 16	1		Banded, Chatham, N. Y., Mar. 13, '59

<i>Robertsonville</i>		
Dec. 29	—	J. Gilbert Smith. Card: EGs., returned today.
<i>Rockingham</i>		
Dec. 22	1-M, 2-F	Nick Lovin. First noted.
Dec. 31	10	Nick Lovin, compiler, Christmas count.
<i>Rocky Mount</i>		
late Nov.	—	John L. Thompson. First noted.
Mar. & Apr.	30-40	John L. Thompson. Banded 100 or more. Recoveries: Banded, Lexington, Mass., Feb. 1, '59. Banded, Enfield, N. H., Feb. 5, '59 Banded, Adams, Mass., Mar. 28, '59. Banded, Ware, Mass., Mar. 1, '53. Banded, Ware, Mass., Jan. 1, '59. New London, Conn., Feb. 15, '59. Freeland, Penn., Mar. 22, '59.
May 4	1	John L. Thompson. Last noted at Rocky Mount.
<i>Salisbury</i>		
Mar. 5	1	Jane P. Holt. First noted.
<i>Southern Pines</i>		
Nov. 29	1-F	Mary Keller Wintyen. With Redwings and Cowbirds.
Jan. 28	50-75	Mary Keller Wintyen. Feeding under oaks and dogwoods.
Feb.	up to 26	Mary Keller Wintyen. Ten observations listed. (31% Male of 63 birds where sex was stated.
Mar.	up to 52	Mary Keller Wintyen. Peak, Mar. 11. 40% Male of 162 birds where sex was stated. Twenty-five observations listed.
April	up to 35	Mary Keller Wintyen. Twenty-two observations listed. 60% Males of 154 birds where sex was stated.
Apr. 29	3-F, 2-M	Mary Keller Wintyen. Final observation.
<i>Swannanoa</i>		
Feb. & Mar.	6-12	Mary G. Lewis. Fairly large numbers during snow storm. Apparently all left, Mar. 26.
<i>Tarboro</i>		
Feb. 28	flocks	Edward H. Marrow. Trapped and released bird banded, Jan. 12, '59 at Deposit, N. Y.
<i>Washington see Bath</i>		
<i>Waynesville</i>		
since Jan.	1-F	Mrs. Boyd Evans. 200 or more in flocks about town.
<i>Winston-Salem</i>		
Jan. 5	1	Mrs. Alex Sloan. Soon increased to about 20, some banded by David Johnson.
Mar. 9	28	Mrs. E. R. Howard. First arrival noted, Feb. 7.
Apr. 20	—	Robert H. Witherington. Present in good numbers.
<i>Zebulon</i>		
Mar. 4	1-F	Mrs. Jack Potter. Ate "Scratch feed."
<i>South Carolina</i>		
<i>Aiken</i>		
Jan. 18, 23	1-M	John B. Hatcher. Fed principally on sweet-gum balls.
Feb. 15	25	John B. Hatcher. Approximate number in flock.
Mar. 3	1-M	John B. Hatcher. Last. Letter dated May 20.
<i>Camden</i>		
Mar. 21	4-M, 2-F	Mrs. Alan Schanes.
Mar. 6	at least 50	Mrs. W. Roscoe Bonsal. Snow.
Apr. 19	"some"	Mrs. W. Roscoe Bonsal. Still present.

<i>Chester</i>			
Feb. 2	2-M		Mrs. W. Cornwell Stone, Sr. First noted.
Feb. 3	9-M, 18-F		Mrs. W. Cornwell Stone, Sr., and Mrs. William C. Miller.
March	79 plus		Mrs. W. Cornwell Stone, Sr. During snow of 1st week.
May 1	—		Mrs. William C. Miller. Last seen.
<i>Charleston</i>			
Mar. 19-21	1-F		Mrs. B. C. Rivers. At feeder, Isle of Palms.
<i>Clemson</i>			
Feb. 27	some		Gaston Gage. First noted.
Feb. 29	13		Gaston Gage. About half males. Feeding under pines.
Feb. 29	22		Gaston Gage. Feeding beneath hackberry trees. Present most of Mar. & Apr.
Apr. 24	some		Gaston Gage. Last seen.
<i>Columbia</i>			
Mar. 1-27	3-65		Kay Curtis Sisson. (from 9 scattered locations)
Apr. 24	3-F		E. B. Chamberlain. Feeding on maple buds.
<i>Greenville</i>			
Mar. 11-14	1-M, 3-F		Mrs. Miller C. Foster. Fed on wild bird seed.
Mar. 27-Apr.	3-M, 3-F		Mrs. Miller C. Foster. One to three birds daily.
Apr. 7-8	1-M, 2-F		Mrs. Miller C. Foster. Last, Apr. 8, 2-F.
March	3		May W. Puett. A flock reported in the city.
<i>Peak (Newberry Co., S. C.)</i>			
Mar. 4-8	20 plus		Mrs. Hattie S. Willes.
<i>Rock Hill</i>			
Mar. 3	1-M, 2-F		Mrs. D. A. Lacoss.
Mar. 9	7-8		Mrs. D. A. Lacoss. Reported by others.
Mar. 20-25	10		Mrs. D. A. Lacoss. Sexes about equal.
Mar. 29	20		Mrs. D. A. Lacoss.
Apr. 10-16	10		Mrs. D. A. Lacoss. Only a few adult males.
<i>Spartanburg</i>			
Feb. 29	30-40		Gabriel Cannon.
March	50 plus		Gabriel Cannon. Heavy snow.
Apr. 8	up to 20		Gabriel Cannon. Still present. Letter, Apr. 8.
<i>Georgia</i>			
<i>Atlanta</i>			
March	—		Richard A. Parks. "Greater numbers than ever. One flock of about 100.
May 15	1-F		Richard A. Parks. Last noted.
<i>Augusta</i>			
Mar. 6	14		J. Fred Denton, MD.
Mar. 30	5		J. Fred Denton, MD.
Apr. 18	3		J. Fred Denton, MD. Last noted.
<i>Columbus</i>			
April 11-23	20		L. A. Wells. "Never recorded before in area."
<i>Rome</i>			
Dec. 27	13		George Dorsey, compiler, Christmas count.
<i>Wadmalaw Island, S. C.</i>			
<i>July 16, 1960.</i>			

The Snow Bunting noted in Briefs, page 38, was observed at Brevard, N. C.

THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGIST IN CAROLINA

EMERSON STRINGHAM AND FRANK N. EGERTON

In December, 1808, Alexander Wilson left Philadelphia on a tour of the south Atlantic states in search of subscribers for his work, *The American Ornithology*. He had just finished a similar trip in the New England states, where he had scarcely received a fifth of the contracts needed before the second of the nine volumes could be published. One hundred twenty dollars was a lot of money, even though the set was the finest publishing venture yet undertaken in America. Nevertheless, his persistence eventually won well over the hoped-for 250 subscribers, so that 500 copies were printed of each succeeding volume, and a second edition was run off of the first volume.

His success in Maryland was not what he had hoped, but he was encouraged by President Jefferson, and Norfolk was more receptive than he expected. In spite of his enthusiasm for his adopted country, he usually complained extensively of the traveling and the living conditions, as, indeed, did nearly every one else. The taverns of North Carolina "are the most desolate and beggarly imaginable . . ." and even at that he found them too far apart:

I crossed the river Taw at Washington, for Newbern, which stands upon a sandy plain, between the rivers Trent and Neuse, both of which abound with alligators. Here I found the shad fishery begun, on the 5th instant; and wished to have some of you with me to assist in dissecting some of the finest shad I ever saw. Thence to Wilmington was my next stage, one hundred miles, with only one house for the accommodation of travellers on the road; two landlords having been broken up with the fever.

It was near Wilmington that he records probably the most valuable observation of the trip—the only North Carolina record of the exceedingly rare Ivory-billed Woodpecker:

I killed two, and winged a male, who alarmed the whole town of Wilmington, screaming exactly like a young child crying violently, so that every body supposed I had a baby under the apron of my chair, till I took out the bird to prevent the people from stopping me. This bird I confined in the room I was to sleep in, and in less than half an hour he made his way through the plaster, the lath, and partly through the weather boards; and would have escaped, if I had not accidentally come in. The common people confound the *P. principalis* and *P. pileatus* together.*

He was astonished that Wilmington, with a population of 3000, should be surrounded by only sand and pine barrens, showing no evidence of agriculture. In these pine savannahs he discovered a woodpecker that he thought to be new to science, and named it *Picus querulus*, Red-cockaded Woodpecker. "The singularity of its voice, which greatly resembles the chirping of young nestlings, and the red streak on the side of its head, suggested the specific name I have given it." Vieillot had recently described it in his French publication, so, Wilson's common name only, is retained.

*Now *Campephilus principalis* and *Dryocopus pileatus* respectively.

The cover photo is from Wilson's plate of the Ivory-billed (right), Pileated (left) and Red-headed Woodpeckers (lower center).

Although unaware of this publication by Vieillot, he had a good knowledge of ornithological literature, and he used the works of Bartram, Buffon, Edwards, Latham, Pennant, and others. He preferred, though, to make his own observations where possible, and these are always accurate, in contrast to much of the work preceding his, as well as some that followed.

In spite of his significant discoveries, and fair success at obtaining subscribers in North Carolina, his overall impression of the state was hardly favorable:

The general features of North Carolina, where I crossed it, are immense, solitary, pine savannas, through which the road winds among stagnant ponds, swarming with alligators; dark, sluggish creeks, of the colour of brandy, over which are thrown high wooden bridges, without railings, and so crazy and rotten as not only to alarm one's horse, but also the rider, and to make it a matter of thanksgiving with both when they get fairly *over*, without going *through*; enormous cypress swamps, which, to a stranger, have a striking, desolate, and ruinous appearance. Picture to yourself a forest of prodigious trees, rising, as thick as they can grow, from a vast flat and impenetrable morass, covered for ten feet from the ground with reeds. The leafless limbs of the cypresses are clothed with an extraordinary kind of moss, (*Tillandsia usneoides*), from two to ten feet long, in such quantities, that fifty men might conceal themselves in one tree. Nothing in this country struck me with such surprise as the prospect of several thousand acres of such timber, loaded, as it were, with many million tons of tow, waving in the wind. I attempted to penetrate several of these swamps, with my gun, in search of something new; but, except in some chance places, I found it altogether impracticable. I coasted along their borders, however, in many places, and was surprised at the great profusion of evergreens, of numberless sorts; and a variety of birds that never winter with us in Pennsylvania, living in abundance.

As to the character of the North Carolinians, were I to judge of it by the specimens which I met with in taverns, I should pronounce them to be the most ignorant, debased, indolent and dissipated, partion of the union. But I became acquainted with a few such noble exceptions, that, for *their* sakes I am willing to believe they are all better than they seemed to be.

* * * *

He visited the rice plantations between Wilmington and Charleston, obtaining subscriptions as he went. Except for the streets, he found Charleston neat and gay, with "a market place which far surpasses those of Philadelphia for cleanliness . . ." But the cleanliness was not universal there:

On the commons, near Charleston, I presided at a singular feast. The company consisted of two hundred and thirty-seven Carrion Crows, (*Vultur atratus*) five or six dogs, and myself, though I only kept order, and left the eating part entirely to the others. I sat so near to the dead horse, that my feet touched his, and yet at one time I counted thirty-eight vultures on and within

him, so that hardly an inch of his flesh could be seen for them. Linneus and others have confounded this Vultur with the Turkey Buzzard, but they are two very distinct species.*

He remained in Charleston longer than he had expected,

partly on account of the [horse] races, which occupied the minds of many I wished to visit, to the exclusion of every thing else. At nine they were in bed; at ten breakfasting—dressing at eleven—gone out at noon, and not visible again until ten next morning. I met, however, with some excellent exceptions, among the first ranks of society, and my work excited universal admiration. Dr. D. introduced it very handsomely into the Courier.

After ten days there, he continued south, going some distance below Savannah and noting along the way not only the birds, but also the trees, flowers, and "immense quantities of elegant butterflies, and other singular insects." He sailed for New York late in March, 1809, with a good list of subscribers, and much new information for the succeeding volumes of his history-making *American Ornithology*.

* Now *Coragyps atratus*.

THE 1960 SPRING COUNT

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN

Spring counts for 1960 came from 12 communities. They are presented in the following pages with the changes necessary to make them conform with the order and nomenclature of the 1957 A. O. U. Check-List. Since ten of these counts were also represented in the 1959 census, some comparisons of the returns of the two years from those locations should be worthwhile.

In general, the 1960 count dates were set about one week later than those of 1959 because of an unusually late spring. Ninety-five observers in 33 parties made the ten counts in 1959. In 1960 there were 105 observers in 36 parties. Last year at these locations 205 species and 26,816 individuals were counted. In 1960 the figures were, 210 species and 27,034 individuals. The close similarity of these totals indicates no appreciable population change, however, major changes might well have taken place in certain species. Observations of single birds here or there in the Carolinas may not be significant but they may contribute to the status of that species when considered with findings over the southeast. The fate of two species has caused considerable concern in our area and the outcome of the 1960 census seems to justify that concern. Eastern Phoebes, reduced to 75 individuals in the ten locations in 1959, were further reduced to 52 birds in the 1960 count. Eastern Bluebirds, numbering 289 in 1959, were down to our lowest count of 94 in 1960.

In the following tabulation, the differences in species counts in the 1960 and 1959 censuses are interesting.

Species found in 1960 and not found in 1959:

Coastal localities

Gannet

Common Gallinule

Black Rail

Knot

Bonaparte's Gull
 Black Tern
 Gray-cheeked Thrush
 Bachman's Warbler

Cerulean Warbler
 Palm Warbler
 Ipswich Sparrow

Piedmont localities

Canada Goose
 Blue Goose
 Sharp-shinned Hawk
 Upland Plover

Solitary Vireo
 Worm-eating Warbler
 Evening Grosbeak

Species not found in 1960 but found in 1959:

Coastal localities

Red-throated Loon
 Horned Grebe
 Water Turkey
 Wood Ibis
 Pintail

Bufflehead
 Oldsquaw
 White-rumped Sandpiper
 Orange-crowned Warbler
 Dickcissel

Piedmont localities

Short-billed Marsh Wren
 Golden-winged Warbler
 Canada Warbler

Mountain locality

Henslow's Sparrow.

Of the 210 species listed in the present count, only 18 were reported in numbers of 200 or more at a location. On the coast, these were:

White Ibis
 Dunlin
 Herring Gull
 Ring-billed Gull
 Least Tern
 Black Skimmer
 Tree Swallow

Blue Jay
 Parula Warbler
 House Sparrow
 Redwinged Blackbird
 Boat-tailed Grackle
 Cardinal
 White-throated Sparrow

Reported in numbers of 200 or more in the Piedmont region:

Purple Martin
 House Sparrow
 Blue Jay
 Mockingbird

Starling
 Redwinged Blackbird
 Cardinal

It should be noted that only House Sparrows, Redwinged Blackbirds and Cardinals appeared in numbers both on the coast and in the Piedmont.

The most interesting finds of the 1960 count were: a Least Bittern near Greensboro; four Mississippi Kites at the Wateree River near Eastover, S. C.; a male Bachman's Warbler heard and watched near Bull's Island, S. C.; by the entire census group; and an Upland Plover near Henderson, N. C., that remained there at least through May 4.

Two observations, presented without initials or comment, have been deleted: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo.

Wadmalaw Island, S. C. July 10, 1960.

Central Beaufort County, N. C. (area about the same as in the Christmas count, centering at the mouth of Broad Creek at the Pamlico River. Only about half of the area covered). Apr. 24, 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Fair and hot, temp. 65° to 93°; wind SSE to SW, 0 to 15 m.p.h. Four observers in 2 parties, 3 hours; 3 observers in 1 party, 10 hours. Total party-hours 16 (10 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles 59 (11 by foot, 48 by car).—Double-crested Cormorant, 26; Great Blue Heron, 3; Green Heron, 2; Wood Duck, 2; Osprey, 1; Bobwhite, 21; Ring-billed Gull, 77; Laughing Gull, 4; Mourning Dove, 23; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 2; Chimney Swift, 27; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 15; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 14; Red-headed Woodpecker, 12; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Eastern Kingbird, 10; Great Crested Flycatcher, 17; Eastern Wood Pewee, 2; Rough-winged Swallow, 5; Purple Martin, 42; Blue Jay, 26; Common Crow, 18; Fish Crow, 33; Carolina Chickadee, 9; Tufted Titmouse, 14; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 6; Carolina Wren, 9; Mockingbird, 14; Catbird, 5; Brown Thrasher, 13; Robin, 4; Wood Thrush, 5; Eastern Bluebird, 4; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 3; Loggerhead Shrike, 3; Starling, 41; White-eyed Vireo, 10; Red-eyed Vireo, 23; Black-and-white Warbler, 2; Prothonotary Warbler, 6; Parula Warbler, 22; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 9; Yellow-throated Warbler, 8; Pine Warbler, 8; Prairie Warbler, 23; Ovenbird, 7; Kentucky Warbler, 1; Hooded Warbler, 11; House Sparrow, 49; Eastern Meadowlark, 3; Redwinged Blackbird, 12; Orchard Oriole, 3; Baltimore Oriole, 2; Common Grackle, 62; Summer Tanager, 16; Cardinal, 36; Indigo Bunting, 1; Evening Grosbeak, 5; Rufous-sided Towhee, 17; Chipping Sparrow, 6; White-throated Sparrow, 18. **Total, 65 species, about 866 individuals.** Seen in area, Apr. 25-26: Spotted Sandpiper, 2; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Tree Swallow, 6; Barn Swallow, 10; Yellowthroat, 2; Field Sparrow, 5.—Ruth Brown, Phyllis Carver, Geraldine Cox (compiler), Mary McLaurin.

Chapel Hill, N. C. (area same as in previous counts, centering at the intersection of Cameron and Columbia Streets). May 1, 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Twenty-one observers. No other data given.—Great Blue Heron, 1; Lesser Scaup, 4; Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Turkey Vulture, 8; Black Vulture, 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Broad-winged Hawk, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Bobwhite, 79; Killdeer, 5; Common Snipe, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 26; Solitary Sandpiper, 4; Mourning Dove, 104; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 9; Great Horned Owl, 2; Barred Owl, 7; Whip-poor-will, 2; Chimney Swift, 132; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 16; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 33; Pileated Woodpecker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 32; Red-headed Woodpecker, 16; Hairy Woodpecker, 9; Downy Woodpecker, 18; Eastern Kingbird, 55; Great Crested Flycatcher, 31; Eastern Phoebe, 16; Acadian Flycatcher, 16; Eastern Wood Pewee, 22; Tree Swallow, 20; Rough-winged Swallow, 13; Barn Swallow, 20; Purple Martin, 47; Blue Jay, 55; Common Crow, 67; Carolina Chickadee, 63; Tufted Titmouse, 44; White-breasted Nuthatch, 23; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 9; House Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 33; Mockingbird, 124; Catbird, 28; Brown Thrasher, 53; Robin, 59; Wood Thrush, 119; Swainson's Thrush, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 24; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 25; Cedar Waxwing, 53; Loggerhead Shrike, 10; Starling, 106; White-eyed Vireo, 25; Yellow-throated Vireo, 23; Solitary Vireo, 2; Red-eyed Vireo,

118; Black-and-white Warbler, 12; Prothonotary Warbler, 4; Parula Warbler, 27; Yellow Warbler, 2; Magnolia Warbler, 1; Cape May Warbler, 8; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 21; Myrtle Warbler, 38; Black-throated Green Warbler, 1; Yellow-throated Warbler, 46; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 3; Blackpoll Warbler, 1; Pine Warbler, 15; Prairie Warbler, 50; Ovenbird, 22; Louisiana Waterthrush, 8; Kentucky Warbler, 4; Yellowthroat, 37; Yellow-breasted Chat, 22; Hooded Warbler, 22; Am. Redstart, 48; House Sparrow, 63; Bobolink, 80; Eastern Meadowlark, 52; Redwinged Blackbird, 40; Orchard Oriole, 6; Baltimore Oriole, 4; Common Grackle, 7; Brown-headed Cowbird, 26; Scarlet Tanager, 34; Summer Tanager, 38; Cardinal, 129; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 3; Blue Grosbeak, 15; Indigo Bunting, 34; **Evening Grosbeak**, 6; Am. Goldfinch, 71; Rufous-sided Towhee, 59; Savannah Sparrow, 10; Grasshopper Sparrow, 7; Chipping Sparrow, 141; Field Sparrow, 15; White-throated Sparrow, 100; Swamp Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 1. **Total**, 106 species, 3171 individuals.—Maurice Barnhill, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Blake, R. M. Brown, Mrs. Richard Calhoon, Archer Dillard, MD., F. O. Ebeling, Stella Lyons, Dr. and Mrs. G. R. MacCarthy, Mrs. Wallace Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. Peeples, Tim Peeples, Lyman A. Ripperton (compiler), W. B. Sanders, Mrs. Pearson Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Matt L. Thompson, Mrs. Adelaide Walters, Mrs. F. R. Weedon.

Charleston, S. C. (Christmas Count area, centering on U. S. Hwy. 17, 14.5 miles N. of Mt. Pleasant. Includes most of Bull's Island, adjacent waters and marshes, opposite mainland back beyond Wando River, as in preceeding years). May 7, 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Clear; temp. 60° to 76°; wind NE—SSE, 5-10 m.p.h. Twenty-one observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 52.25, (39 on foot, 12.25 in car, 1 in boat); total party-miles, 215.25 (41.95 on foot, 169.3 in car, 4 in boat).—Pied-billed Grebe, 4; Brown Pelican, 9; Double-crested Cormorant, 6; Great Blue Heron, 18; Green Heron, 19; Little Blue Heron, 20; Cattle Egret, 6; Common Egret, 43; Snowy Egret, 35; Louisiana Heron, 31; Black-crowned Night Heron, 2; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 1; Least Bittern, 1; Glossy Ibis, 45; White Ibis, 830; Blue-winged Teal, 3; Red-breasted Merganser, 2; Turkey Vulture, 34; Black Vulture, 27; Mississippi Kite, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 11; Bald Eagle, 4; Osprey, 9; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 24; Turkey, 3; Clapper Rail, 3; Common Gallinule, 10; Am. Coot, 6; Am. Oystercatcher, 18; Semipalmated Plover, 96; Wilson's Plover, 1; Killdeer, 1; Black-bellied Plover, 36; Ruddy Turnstone, 28; Whimbrel, 51; Spotted Sandpiper, 9; Solitary Sandpiper, 5; Willet, 14; Greater Yellowlegs, 9; Lesser Yellowlegs, 2; Knot, 5; Dunlin, 73; Dowitcher, 30; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 2; Sanderling, 9; Black-necked Stilt, 15; Herring Gull, 16; Ring-billed Gull, 10; Laughing Gull, 45; Forster's Tern, 17; Least Tern, 9; Royal Tern, 7; Black Tern, 2; Black Skimmer, 14; Mourning Dove, 35; Ground Dove, 1; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 46; Screech Owl, 4 (Ad. and 3 yng., banded); Barred Owl, 2; Chuck-will's-widow, 1; Common Nighthawk, 2; Chimney Swift, 96; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 9; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 20; Pileated Woodpecker, 29; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 58; Red-headed Woodpecker, 15; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 9; Red-cockaded Woodpecker, 14; Eastern Kingbird, 41; Great Crested Flycatcher, 99; Acadian Flycatcher, 25; Eastern Wood Pewee, 81; Tree Swallow, 60; Bank Swallow, 2; Rough-winged Swallow, 1; Barn Swallow, 82; Purple Martin, 87; Blue Jay, 82; Common Crow, 115; Fish Crow, 2; Carolina Chickadee, 20; Tufted Titmouse, 52; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 49; Carolina Wren, 66; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 2; Mockingbird, 33; Brown Thrasher, 15; Wood Thrush, 32; Eastern Bluebird, 9; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 35; Cedar Waxwing, 25; Loggerhead Shrike, 10; Starling, 27; White-eyed Vireo, 66; Yellow-throated Vireo, 16; Red-eyed Vireo, 84; Prothonotary Warbler, 13; **Bachman's Warbler**, 1; Parula Warbler, 88; Black-throated Green Warbler, 19; Yellow-throated Warbler, 64; Pine Warbler, 71; Prairie Warbler, 44; Palm Warbler, 2; Kentucky Warbler, 7; Yellowthroat, 21; Yellow-breasted Chat, 53; Hooded Warbler, 69; House Sparrow, 7; Bobolink, 1; Eastern Meadowlark,

39; Redwinged Blackbird, 81; Orchard Oriole, 37; Boat-tailed Grackle, 32; Common Grackle, 41; Scarlet Tanager, 2; Summer Tanager, 67; Cardinal, 70; Blue Grosbeak, 2; Indigo Bunting, 16; Painted Bunting, 60; Rufous-sided Towhee, 19; Savannah Sparrow, 1; Bachman's Sparrow, 2; Chipping Sparrow, 47. **Total**, 132 species, (two additional subspecies); 4280 individuals. The single Bachman's Warbler (singing male) was observed by all parties.—R. A. Baker, Mr. & Mrs. Francis Barrington, T. A. Beckett III, Mr. & Mrs. E. L. Blitch, B. R. Chamberlain, E. B. Chamberlain (compiler), Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Coleman, R. H. Coleman, Jr., E. A. Cutts, E. S. Dingle, R. D. Edwards, Mrs. J. A. Leland, Mr. & Mrs. B. F. McGuckin, I. S. Metcalf, I. S. H. Metcalf, Mrs. M. D. Richardson, Miss Elizabeth Simons. (Thanks are due Mr. Edgar Jaycocks, Manager of the Romain National Refuge and his staff for their help with the Bull's Island coverage.)

Charlotte, N. C. (7½ mile radius centering at 7th Street and Briar Creek; deciduous-pine woods and edge 62%, lakes and ponds 4%, open field and farmland 27%, city lawns 7%). May 7; 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Cloudy in morning with rain in early and mid-afternoon; temp. 58° to 68°; wind SE, 3-17 m.p.h. Five observers in 3 parties. Total party hours, 29 (25 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 106 (11 on foot, 95 by car). Green Heron, 4; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 1; Broad-winged Hawk, 1; Osprey, 1; Bobwhite, 13; Killdeer, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 1; Mourning Dove, 77; Barred Owl, 1; Chuck-will's-widow, 2; Chimney Swift, 43; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 8; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Eastern Kingbird, 9; Great Crested Flycatcher, 17; Eastern Phoebe, 4; Acadian Flycatcher, 4; Wood Pewee, 10; Barn Swallow, 1; Blue Jay, 36; Common Crow, 26; Carolina Chickadee, 14; Tufted Titmouse, 19; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 5; House Wren, 6; Carolina Wren, 7; Mockingbird, 35; Catbird, 25; Brown Thrasher, 10; Robin, 56; Wood Thrush, 33; Swainson's Thrush, 7; Eastern Bluebird, 6; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 13; Cedar Waxwing, 13; Loggerhead Shrike, 13; Starling, 111; White-eyed Vireo, 6; Yellow-throated Vireo, 5; Red-eyed Vireo, 18; Black-and-white Warbler, 4; Parula Warbler, 5; Cape May Warbler, 1; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 3; Myrtle Warbler, 4; Blackpoll Warbler, 2; Pine Warbler, 6; Prairie Warbler, 9; Ovenbird, 15; Northern Water-thrush, 2; Kentucky Warbler, 3; Yellowthroat, 22; Yellow-breasted Chat, 13; Hooded Warbler, 4; American Redstart, 10; House Sparrow, 70; Eastern Meadow-lark, 20; Redwinged Blackbird, 11; Orchard Oriole, 3; Common Grackle, 82; Brown-headed Cowbird, 3; Summer Tanager, 6; Cardinal, 61; Blue Grosbeak, 2; Indigo Bunting, 20; American Goldfinch, 11; Rufous-sided Towhee, 30; Chipping Sparrow, 30; Field Sparrow, 15; White-throated Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 6. **Total**, 75 species; 1056 individuals. Lee Jones (compiler), Julian Meadows, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Norwood, Mrs. Shuford K. Peeler. Notes: Low count due to inadequate coverage of area. (Seen in area May 6, Solitary Sandpiper, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Common Nighthawk, Scarlet Tanager, Evening Grosbeak; Seen May 8, Black Vulture).

Eastover, S. C. (area same as in Christmas counts). May 16, 6:00 a.m. to dusk. Fair, temp. 53° to 80°; wind gentle, W to NW. Two observers in one party. Twenty-five miles by car.—Canada Goose, 1; Blue Goose, 1; Wood Duck, 4; Lesser Scaup, 1; Turkey Vulture, 1; Black Vulture, 6; **Mississippi Kite**, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 13; Spotted Sandpiper, 2; Solitary Sandpiper, 1; Greater Yellowlegs, 5; Lesser Yellowlegs, 3; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 3; Ring-billed Gull, 1; Mourning Dove, 21; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1; Chuck-will's-widow, 1; Common Nighthawk, 2; Chimney Swift, 15; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Eastern Kingbird, 16; Great Crested Flycatcher, 5; Acadian Flycatcher, 10; Eastern Wood Pewee, 3; Tree Swallow, 2; Rough-winged Swallow, 15; Purple Martin, 3; Blue Jay, 22; Common Crow, 4; Carolina Chickadee, 4; Tufted Titmouse, 8; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 1; Carolina Wren, 11; Mockingbird, 14; Catbird,

1; Brown Thrasher, 3; Robin, 2; Wood Thrush, 3; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 5; Loggerhead Shrike, 5; Starling, 8; White-eyed Vireo, 6; Yellow-throated Vireo, 2; Red-eyed Vireo, 12; Prothonotary Warbler, 3; Parula Warbler, 5; Blackburnian Warbler, 1; Blackpoll Warbler, 8; Prairie Warbler, 2; Kentucky Warbler, 2; Hooded Warbler, 3; Am. Redstart, 6; House Sparrow, 117; Bobolink, 50; Eastern Meadowlark, 8; Redwinged Blackbird, 10; Orchard Oriole, 6; Common Grackle, 6; Summer Tanager, 6; Cardinal, 24; Blue Grosbeak, 11; Indigo Bunting, 6; Painting Bunting, 4; Rufous-sided Towhee, 14; Savannah Sparrow, 1; Field Sparrow, 2. **Total**, 73 species, 558 individuals. Note: the Mississippi Kites were seen in and over a grain field near the Wateree River. One was seen catching a rat.—Annie Rivers Favor (compiler), Kay Curtis Sisson.

Greensboro, N. C. (area same as in Christmas count). Apr. 30. 5:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Mostly fair in a.m., increasingly cloudy in p.m., beginning to rain in late p.m. Temp 48° to 71°; light wind. Twenty-seven observers in twelve parties. Total party-hours, 101 (19 by car, 82 on foot); total party-miles, 163½ (119 by car, 44½ on foot).—Common Loon, 1; Great Blue Heron, 1; Green Heron, 2; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 1; **Least Bittern**, 1; Blue-winged Teal, 1; Wood Duck, 1; Lesser Scaup, 1; Turkey Vulture, 7; Black Vulture, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 4; Red-shouldered Hawk, 3; Broad-winged Hawk, 3; Osprey, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 3; Bobwhite, 31; Sora, 2; Am. Coot, 1; Killdeer, 4; Common Snipe, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 8; Solitary Sandpiper, 13; Pectoral Sandpiper, 1; Least Sandpiper, 7; Ring-billed Gull, 6; Mourning Dove, 109; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1; Whip-poor-will, 2; Common Nighthawk, 6; Crimney Swift, 94; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 7; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 59; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 56; Red-headed Woodpecker, 16; Hairy Woodpecker, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 35; Eastern Kingbird, 35; Great Crested Flycatcher, 52; Eastern Phoebe, 16; Acadian Flycatcher, 18; Eastern Wood Pewee, 26; Horned Lark, 4; Tree Swallow, 2; Bank Swallow, 1; Rough-winged Swallow, 25; Barn Swallow, 20; Purple Martin, 6; Blue Jay 215; Common Crow, 105; Carolina Chickadee, 87; Tufted Titmouse, 91; White-breasted Nuthatch, 19; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 18; House Wren, 26; Carolina Wren, 27; Mockingbird, 214; Catbird, 43; Brown Thrasher, 41; Robin, 167; Wood Thrush, 166; Hermit Thrush, 1; Swainson's Thrush, 4; Eastern Bluebird, 21; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 26; Cedar Waxwing, 11; Loggerhead Shrike, 25; Starling, 540; White-eyed Vireo, 18; Yellow-throated Vireo, 52; Solitary Vireo, 1; Red-eyed Vireo, 118; Black-and-white Warbler, 7; Prothonotary Warbler, 4; Parula Warbler, 23; Yellow Warbler, 11; Cape May Warbler, 21; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 5; Myrtle Warbler, 52; Blackburnian Warbler, 2; Yellow-throated Warbler, 12; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 3; Pine Warbler, 19; Prairie Warbler, 52; Ovenbird, 64; Northern Waterthrush, 1; Louisiana Waterthrush, 13; Kentucky Warbler, 1; Yellowthroat, 38; Yellow-breasted Chat, 32; Hooded Warbler, 32; Am. Redstart, 52; House Sparrow, 316; Bobolink, 5; Eastern Meadowlark, 140; Redwinged Blackbird, 395; Orchard Oriole, 8; Rusty Blackbird, 1; Common Grackle, 106; Brown-headed Cowbird, 13; Scarlet Tanager, 22; Summer Tanager, 44; Cardinal, 245; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 5; Blue Grosbeak, 5; Indigo Bunting, 22; Am. Goldfinch, 96; Rufous-sided Towhee, 150; Savannah Sparrow, 4; Grasshopper Sparrow, 11; Bachman's Sparrow, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 1; Chipping Sparrow, 122; Field Sparrow, 20; White-throated Sparrow, 87; Swamp Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 32. **Total**, 118 species, 5067 individuals.—Bill Brown, Mrs. David Cason, Inez Coldwell, Mrs. Floyd H. Craft, Larry Crawford, Mrs. R. C. Crocker, Charlotte Dawley, Sidney Holmes, Robert L. Lasley, James Mattocks, Mrs. Robert McCoy (compiler), Dr. and Mrs. Franklin McNutt, Ida Mitchell, Elizabeth Ogburn, Mr. and Mrs. George Perrett, Dr. and Mrs. C. I. Reed, Mrs. Edith Settan, Etta Schiffman, George A. Smith, Mrs. W. F. Smyre, Thomas E. Street, Mrs. Charles M. Swart, Mrs. W. R. Troxler, Mrs. R. H. Weisner. (*The Piedmont Bird Club*).

Henderson, N. C. (area approximately same as in previous counts, including Ruin Creek, Ruin Creek Dairy Farm, Kerr Lake). Apr. 30. 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., fair and cool. Miles and hours not reported. Twelve observers.—Turkey Vulture, 4; Black Vulture, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 7; Am. Woodcock, 1; Upland Plover, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 3; Mourning Dove, 31; Chimney Swift, 41; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 3; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 6; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 5; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 9; Eastern Kingbird, 16; Great Crested Flycatcher, 5; Eastern Phoebe, 9; Acadian Flycatcher, 4; Eastern Wood Pewee, 1; Rough-winged Swallow, 3; Barn Swallow, 12; Purple Martin, 1; Blue Jay, 25; Common Crow, 11; Carolina Chickadee, 20; Tufted Titmouse, 7; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 3; House Wren, 3; Carolina Wren, 4; Mockingbird, 19; Catbird, 12; Brown Thrasher, 15; Robin, 19; Wood Thrush, 7; Swainson's Thrush, 2; Eastern Bluebird, 4; Loggerhead Shrike, 10; Starling, 58; White-eyed Vireo, 16; Yellow-throated Vireo, 6; Solitary Vireo, 1; Red-eyed Vireo, 65; Black-and-white Warbler, 1; Prothonotary Warbler, 1; Parula Warbler, 35; Yellow Warbler, 1; Cape May Warbler, 1; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 19; Yellow-throated Warbler, 9; Pine Warbler, 2; Prairie Warbler, 32; Ovenbird, 16; Louisiana Waterthrush, 6; Kentucky Warbler, 3; Yellowthroat, 6; Yellow-breasted Chat, 3; Hooded Warbler, 14; Am. Redstart, 56; House Sparrow, 72; Eastern Meadowlark, 46; Redwinged Blackbird, 12; Common Grackle, 24; Brown-headed Cowbird, 3; Summer Tanager, 18; Cardinal, 51; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 3; Blue Grosbeak, 1; Indigo Bunting, 4; Evening Grosbeak, 32; Am. Goldfinch, 24; Rufous-sided Towhee, 11; Chipping Sparrow, 13; Field Sparrow, 3; White-throated Sparrow, 15; Swamp Sparrow, 2. Total, 78 species, 1058 individuals. Seen in area, May 1: Blackpoll Warbler, 1; Savannah Sparrow, 6. The Upland Plover was still present, May 4.—A. W. Bachman, Mrs. A. W. Bachman (compiler), Mrs. E. M. Brown, Mr. & Mrs. Fred D. Conderman, Miss Mariel Gary, Miss Mae Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Meadows, Mrs. J. L. McLaurin, Miss Garnett Myers, Mrs. E. L. Satterwaite.

Jefferson, N. C. (area centers at Hurt's farm in Nathan's Creek community, including parts of South Fork of New River). May 1, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear, temp. 58° to 62°. Seven observers in 1 party in a.m., six observers in 1 party in p.m.; party-miles not given.—Turkey Vulture, 2; Whip-poor-will, 2; Chimney Swift, 22; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 7; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Eastern Kingbird, 2; Great Crested Flycatcher, 7; Eastern Phoebe, 6; Least Flycatcher, 1; Eastern Wood Pewee, 2; Bank Swallow, 2; Rough-winged Swallow, 2; Barn Swallow, 27; Cliff Swallow, 7; Blue Jay, 6; Common Crow, 39; Carolina Chickadee, 17; Tufted Titmouse, 21; White-breasted Nuthatch, 6; House Wren, 6; Bewick's Wren, 4; Carolina Wren, 11; Catbird, 9; Brown Thrasher, 10; Robin, 20; Wood Thrush, 4; Eastern Bluebird, 7; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 11; Starling, 14; Red-eyed Vireo, 7; Black-and-white Warbler, 10; Parula Warbler, 5; Yellow Warbler, 13; Cape May Warbler, 1; Cerulean Warbler, 1; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 3; Myrtle Warbler, 7; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 6; Ovenbird, 2; Yellow-breasted Chat, 1; Hooded Warbler, 1; Am. Redstart, 4; House Sparrow, 36; Eastern Meadowlark, 4; Redwinged Blackbird, 36; Orchard Oriole, 2; Baltimore Oriole, 5; Brewer's Blackbird, 1; Common Grackle, 16; Brown-headed Cowbird, 43; Scarlet Tanager, 1; Cardinal, 25; Am. Goldfinch, 23; Rufous-sided Towhee, 33; Chipping Sparrow, 24; Field Sparrow, 7; White-throated Sparrow, 3; Song Sparrow, 24. Total, 59 species, 625 individuals. (Seen in area, Apr. 26, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 1; Pine Warbler, 1; Apr. 27: Yellowthroat, 1; Apr. 28: Mourning Dove, 1; Apr. 29: Wood Duck, 2; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Apr. 30: Spotted Sandpiper, 6; May 2: Great Blue Heron, 1; Yellow-throated Vireo, 1; May 3: Rusty Blackbird, 1; May 5: Indigo Bunting, 1; Horned Lark, 1; Warbling Vireo, 1; Blackburnian Warbler, 1.—Bettie Jane Carter, Mrs. Phil Eckman, Mrs. A. Burman Hurt (compiler), John R. Jackson, Alice Lyall, Gorden McWilliams, Mike Welch.

New London, N. C. (7½ mile radius, center 2 miles northwest of Badin, including High Rock Dam, Yadkin River, Badin Lake, Morrow Mountain State Park, Albemarle City Reservoir, Albemarle, Badin, Richfield, and New London; ponds and lakes 15%, mixed woods and edge 20%, city lawns 15%, open fields and farmland 50%)—April 30; 5:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; temp. 49° to 71°; wind SW 6 to 8 m.p.h.; mostly cloudy with light rain in p.m. Nine observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 36½ (18 by car, 16½ on foot, 2 hrs. by boat); total party-miles 165 (148 by car, 15 on foot, 3 by boat). Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Little Blue Heron, 2; Green Heron, 3; Am. Bittern, 1; Turkey Vulture, 8; Black Vulture, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Broad-winged Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 3; Bobwhite, 26; Killdeer, 12; Spotted Sandpiper, 15; Herring Gull, 4; Ring-billed Gull, 6; Mourning Dove, 47; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 4; Black-billed Cuckoo, 3; Barred Owl, 1; Whip-poor-will, 5; Chimney Swift, 137; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 6; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 12; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 4; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 10; Eastern Kingbird, 6; Great Crested Flycatcher, 10; Eastern Phoebe, 10; Acadian Flycatcher, 4; Wood Pewee, 10; Tree Swallow, 25; Rough-winged Swallow, 58; Barn Swallow, 28; Purple Martin, 348; Blue Jay, 76; Common Crow, 38; Carolina Chickadee, 27; Tufted Titmouse, 22; White-breasted Nuthatch, 6; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 4; House Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 41; Mockingbird, 102; Catbird, 27; Brown Thrasher, 56; Robin, 120; Wood Thrush, 71; Eastern Bluebird, 32; Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, 16; Cedar Waxwing, 14; Loggerhead Shrike, 14; Starling, 176; White-eyed Vireo, 23; Yellow-throated Vireo, 6; Red-eyed Vireo, 50; Black and White Warbler, 2; Prothonotary Warbler, 10; Yellow Warbler, 1; Cape May Warbler, 2; Myrtle Warbler, 3; Black-throated Green Warbler, 2; Yellow-throated Warbler, 4; Pine Warbler, 10; Prairie Warbler, 21; Yellowthroat, 22; Yellow-breasted Chat, 14; Hooded Warbler, 2; Am. Redstart, 1; House Sparrow, 408; Bobolink, 110; Eastern Meadowlark, 72; Redwinged Blackbird, 54; Orchard Oriole, 13; Rusty Blackbird, 5; Common Grackle, 35; Brown-headed Cowbird, 59; Summer Tanager, 20; Cardinal, 151; Blue Grosbeak, 11; Indigo Bunting, 5; Evening Grosbeak, 32; Am. Goldfinch, 53; Rufous-sided Towhee, 7; Chipping Sparrow, 71; Field Sparrow, 13; White-throated Sparrow, 35; Song Sparrow, 4. **Total**, 89 species; about 2991 individuals. Mr. Barrett Crook, Mrs. Barrett Crook and Mrs. John U. Whitlock, (compilers), Mrs. A. L. Shankle, Susan Greene, Donald Maner, Mrs. L. A. Price, Mrs. James Mauney, C. M. Hathcock (19 other individual observers in various localities).

Raleigh, N. C. (area same as in Christmas counts). May 9, 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Temp. 50°-60°; clear all day; calm with intermittent wind 5-10 m.p.h. Nine observers. Party and coverage data not given.—Green Heron, 1; Turkey Vulture, 8; Black Vulture, 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Broad-winged Hawk, 2; Osprey, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Bobwhite, 36; Killdeer, 12; Am. Woodcock, 2; Spotted Sandpiper, 2; Mourning Dove, 18; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1; Whip-poor-will, 1; Common Nighthawk, 2; Chimney Swift, 75; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 18; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 4; Red-headed Woodpecker, 15; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Eastern Kingbird, 12; Great Crested Flycatcher, 18; Eastern Phoebe, 2; Acadian Flycatcher, 4; Eastern Wood Pewee, 8; Bank Swallow, 7; Rough-winged Swallow, 18; Barn Swallow, 5; Purple Martin, 10; Blue Jay, 28; Common Crow, 14; Carolina Chickadee, 36; Tufted Titmouse, 12; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 2; House Wren, 4; Carolina Wren, 18; Mockingbird, 56; Catbird, 8; Brown Thrasher, 12; Robin, 59; Wood Thrush, 25; Swainson's Thrush, 2; Veery, 2; Eastern Bluebird, 2; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 28; Loggerhead Shrike, 18; Starling, 450; White-eyed Vireo, 6; Yellow-throated Vireo, 1; Solitary Vireo, 1; Red-eyed Vireo, 18; Parula Warbler, 2; Yellow Warbler, 4; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 2; Myrtle Warbler, 6; Blackpoll Warbler, 12; Pine Warbler, 12; Prairie Warbler, 10; Ovenbird, 6; Louisiana Waterthrush, 2; Yellowthroat, 10; Yellow-breasted Chat,

6; Hooded Warbler, 6; Am. Redstart, 9; House Sparrow, 275; Eastern Meadowlark, 150; Redwinged Blackbird, 65; Orchard Oriole, 6; Rusty Blackbird, 7; Common Grackle, 15; Brown-headed Cowbird, 26; Summer Tanager, 3; Cardinal, 38; Blue Grosbeak, 2; Indigo Bunting, 3; Am. Goldfinch, 18; Rufous-sided Towhee, 48; Savannah Sparrow, 6; Grasshopper Sparrow, 8; Chipping Sparrow, 12; Field Sparrow, 36; White-throated Sparrow, 26; Swamp Sparrow, 10; Song Sparrow, 12. Totals: 92 species; 1957 individuals. Observers: Philip Davis, Mrs. Elizabeth Felker, J. W. Johnson, Stephen Johnson, Mrs. James Nowell, Mrs. John Rhodes, Mrs. M. F. Showalter, D. L. Wray (compiler), Mrs. D. L. Wray.

Rockingham, N. C. (area about the same as in Christmas count, centering near the Seaboard Depot). May 7, 4:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cloudy with rain in the p.m. Temp. 50° to 75°; some wind. Two observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 28 (all on foot): total party-miles, 31 (all on foot).—Great Blue Heron, 3; Green Heron, 4; Common Egret, 1; Wood Duck, 4; Turkey Vulture, 1; Black Vulture, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Broad-winged Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Osprey, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 13; Killdeer, 7; Am. Woodcock, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 3; Solitary Sandpiper, 1; Mourning Dove, 21; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 2; Great Horned Owl, 1; Chuck-will's-widow, 3; Whip-poor-will, 5; Common Nighthawk, 2; Chimney Swift, 20; Ruby-throated Hummingbird 6; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 13; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 10; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Eastern Kingbird, 12; Great Crested Flycatcher, 14; Eastern Phoebe, 5; Acadian Flycatcher, 3; Eastern Wood Pewee, 10; Rough-winged Swallow, 13; Purple Martin, 23; Barn Swallow, approx. 500; Blue Jay, 31; Common Crow, 29; Carolina Chickadee, 9; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 3; Tufted Titmouse, 7; House Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 11; Mockingbird, 17; Catbird, 22; Brown Thrasher, 13; Wood Thrush, 21; Swainson's Thrush, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 2; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 20; Cedar Waxwing, 33; Loggerhead Shrike, 8; Starling, 13; White-eyed Vireo, 8; Yellow-throated Vireo, 4; Red-eyed Vireo, 12; Black-and-white Warbler, 5; Prothonotary Warbler, 15; Worm-eating Warbler, 4; Parula Warbler, 5; Cape May Warbler, 1; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 2; Myrtle Warbler, 3; Yellow-throated Warbler, 5; Blackpoll Warbler, 3; Pine Warbler, 2; Prairie Warbler, 28; Ovenbird, 4; Northern Waterthrush, 1; Louisiana Waterthrush, 1; Yellowthroat, 30; Yellow-breasted Chat, 25; Hooded Warbler, 3; Am. Redstart, 18; House Sparrow, 10; Eastern Meadowlark, 5; Redwinged Blackbird, 15; Orchard Oriole, 2; Common Grackle, 25; Brown-headed Cowbird, 1; Scarlet Tanager, 10; Cardinal, 27; Blue Grosbeak, 6; Indigo Bunting, 15; Am. Goldfinch, 35; Rufous-sided Towhee, 11; Chipping Sparrow, 6; Field Sparrow, 7; White-throated Sparrow, 4; Song Sparrow, 3; Swamp Sparrow, 1. Total, 97 species, 1309 individuals. (Seen in the area a week before the count, 1 Evening Grosbeak).—Victor Duehring, Nick Lovin (compiler).

Wilmington, N. C.—(area same as in Christmas counts, 15 mile diameter circle centering ½ mile north of Myrtle Grove Junction). Apr. 23. 4:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Clear, temp. 48° to 74°; wind S. 5 to 15 m.p.h. Eleven observers in five parties. Total party-hours, 63 (31 on foot, 30 by car, 2 by boat); total party-miles 434 (18 by foot, 401 by car, 15 by boat).—Common Loon, 3; Pied-billed Grebe, 3; Gannet, 2; Double-crested Cormorant, 2; Great Blue Heron, 10; Green Heron, 36; Little Blue Heron, 12; Common Egret, 35; Snowy Egret, 40; Louisiana Heron, 13; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 1; Least Bittern, 1; Canada Goose, 4; Mallard, 3; Blue-winged Teal, 18; Wood Duck, 10; Ring-necked Duck, 2; Lesser Scaup, 7; Red-breasted Merganser, 36; Turkey Vulture, 8; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 4; Bald Eagle, 1; Osprey, 28; Bobwhite, 47; King Rail, 1; Clapper Rail, 18; Black Rail, 1; Purple Gallinule, 1; Common Gallinule, 5; Am. Coot, 5; Am. Oystercatcher, 48; Piping Plover, 1; Semipalmated Plover, 10; Wilson's Plover, 12; Killdeer, 1; Am. Golden Plover, 1; Black-bellied Plover,

Continued on page 77.



GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. B. Chamberlain, Robert A. Norris, Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Wadmalaw Island, S. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

Some Reported Winter Fatalities.—The winter of 1959-60 was one of the most severe on record in the Carolinas. Sub-freezing nights and days in March robbed our wildlife of food and water too long. Many of our birds perished.

Numerous reports were received in which casualties were mentioned. Fortunately some reporters were specific enough to make noteworthy contributions:

Spartanburg, S. C.—The snow and cold caused an appalling loss of bird life here. Robins suffered the most, there being literally hundreds of dead birds in the fields. The second species that seemed to suffer the most were the Eastern Meadowlarks, which surprised me, as I had felt that Robins killed were probably those having just arrived and probably exhausted and needing food. The Eastern Bluebirds also suffered, and whereas we had four or five on our feeders up until snow, we have seen none either on the feeders or in the yard since. The Bobwhites and Mourning Doves seemed to get by fairly well. One interesting observation made by a hunter friend of mine was a covey of quail feeding on a dead Robin. He returned to the site several hours later and states that the Robin was picked clean. He also said that there were many sparrows found on the snow at his farm. We had no way of identifying these.—JOHN O. WATKINS, MD. *April 8, 1960.*

Fort Mill, York County, S. C.—After all of this snow and ice I imagine you are burying your feathered friends too. I've had the unpleasant job of interring a few, mostly Robins and Myrtle Warblers. I have been told by many that they saw Robins frozen so I know the loss must be great. My biggest worry at present is the absence of my Bluebirds which have been here all winter. My next door neighbor has found several dead ones and I am afraid none survived.—MRS. M. O. GRIFFIN, *March 15, 1960.*

Elkin, N. C.—The snow storms took a heavy toll of birds in spite of the wonderful response we got to appeals to people to feed them during the last of February and most of March. I got a report of *eight* dead Bluebirds being found in one box and *four* in another besides quite a few reports of singles found around human homes. Robins, Slate-colored Juncos and Bobwhites were reported dead. I had an Eastern Phoebe coming to get greasy cornmeal at a feeder at the post office during the February storm. A Mockingbird was making the Phoebe pretty unwelcome. I did not see it during any of the March storms.—LINVILLE HENDREN, *April 8, 1960.*

Bath, Beaufort Co., N. C.—On Tuesday afternoon, Mar. 1, 1960, while driving across the bridge across Bath Creek at Bath, N. C., I saw about 100 Tree Swallows flying in spirals over the bridge. Again, on Friday, Mar. 4, in the morning and afternoon, I saw many swallows flying wildly about the bridge, barely missing cars as they dashed about. During the late afternoon the wind blew a gale and the temperature fell to 18°. A cold, windy and bitter week-end followed.

On Monday morning, March 7, again at the bridge I saw few swallows and they hardly flew like swallows. At school, several of my students told me that swallows had dashed against the houses, windows and screen porches near the bridge just before dark on Friday. They told of dead birds all over the ground on Saturday morning. On Monday afternoon I stopped near the bridge and talked with some of the people and picked up several birds that were still on the ground. All were Tree Swallows and apparently, adult males. On the following Wednesday I saw a lone Tree Swallow fly over Bath Creek bridge in the driving snow. I did not see another again until April 5th., when about 20 appeared.—GERALDINE COX, *May 15, 1960*.

Wing Motions of a Foraging Louisiana Heron.—On June 6, 1959, I observed some unusual foraging behavior of a Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor*) on a tidal flat near the Bodie Island Lighthouse, at the Hatteras National Seashore, North Carolina. Twice the bird jerked out its wings, while holding its body nearly horizontally, and pecked into the water immediately thereafter. One of the strikes definitely produced a catch; I am uncertain about the other. Then the heron began running through the water waving its outstretched wings, and pecked into the water several times. I was unable to tell whether or not anything was caught during this running chase. After this, the heron stopped moving and stood quietly in the water without striking for about fifteen minutes, after which observations ceased.

Dr. A. J. Meyerriecks (pers. comm.) has seen "disturb and chase" foraging many times by several species of herons, and will discuss it fully in two forthcoming papers about heron behavior. Many herons wave their wings during "disturb and chase" foraging. This component could be merely balance or flight intention motions; but the Louisiana Heron described here also flipped its wings when it stood and moved slowly. It seems possible that the wing motions are used to startle prey into betraying themselves in much the same way as some passerines apparently startle insects (see Hailman. 1959. *Auk*, 76:236-238).—JACK P. HAILMAN, 6037 *Lake Terrace Circle, Norfolk, Virginia, May 1960*.

Coot Nest Found Near Charleston, S. C.—Last year in *The Chat* (23:64-65) a report was given on the suspected nesting of the American Coot in South Carolina. It was noted that for many years ornithologists believed the Coot nested in this state, but despite concentrated efforts on the part of a number of persons at various times, the nest and eggs of this species had escaped detection.

It was also noted that through vigilant search by Ted Beckett, of Magnolia Gardens, in the newly-created duck pond at the gardens, a Coot's egg shell had been discovered.

Hope was expressed that success in finding the nest and eggs of the Coot would be achieved this year. It has been.

On May 1 the writer spent about five hours sloshing around hip-deep in the 100-acre duck pond, finding Gallinule and Grebe nests, but no Coot nest. Late in the afternoon Beckett joined the search and we continued to navigate the shallow pond on foot for several hours.

Just before dusk we decided to call it a day and headed back for the dike. Just on the other side of the dike was a small fresh water pond in which Beckett had found another Florida Gallinule nest more convenient to the shore. Beckett planned to take pictures of the nest and wanted to show it to me.

We pulled the boat over the embankment between the two ponds, crossed

the channel, got out of the boat and waded right up to a Coot's nest holding eight heavily incubated eggs.

Two days later Beckett returned to take pictures of the first Coot nest and found two more nests of this species, both with eight eggs on the verge of hatching.—ERNEST CUTTS, *Charleston, S. C., May 25, 1960.*

Red Phalarope at Cape Romain, S. C.—On June 11, 1960 on a visit to off-shore Cape Island near McClellanville, S. C., I, with a group of young people from Summerville, had the good fortune to see and study a Red Phalarope. The bird was found by Peter Manigault. It was in good plumage.—WILLIAM BALDWIN, *Summerville, S. C., June 16, 1960.*

Northern Phalaropes and a King Rail.—On May 22, 1960, on one of our frequent trips to the Pea Island area, my wife and I had a most unusual experience. We were lucky enough to find two female Northern Phalaropes feeding in typical Phalarope fashion in a small fresh water pool just to the left of the observation platform on the causeway on Pea Island, (Dare County) N. C. We observed them for at least 15 minutes around 4:30 in the afternoon. They were in full spring plumage and we watched them and numerous other birds feeding along the edge of this shallow pool with our B & L 30X scope. The majority of the others were Semipalmated Plovers, Dowitchers and Dunlins. Suddenly to our amazement a big rail—believed to be a King Rail because it was a very rusty brown and was in fresh water—darted from the surrounding marsh grass, seized a Semipalmated Sandpiper and apparently broke its neck. The rail then carried the sandpiper just inside the edge of the marsh where we could watch them easily. The rail put the sandpiper down and, using his bill as a rapier, stabbed at the bird until he was sure of his kill. After this he tore pieces of flesh from the sandpiper and proceeded to eat him! I have not been able to find any reference to rails eating birds and I feel that this is probably an unusual occurrence. The Phalaropes departed promptly when the rail appeared.—EDWARD D. GREAVES, MD., *Portsmouth, Virginia, May 28, 1960.* (For other records of the Northern Phalarope in the Carolinas, see *The Chat*, 23:88).

Swainson's Warbler Probably Nesting Near Wilmington.—On June 16, 1960, I made an early morning trip to Moore's Creek Military Park, about 20 miles NW of Wilmington, N. C., to investigate some of the fresh water swamps for nesting warblers, and at about 5:15 I was standing in the parking lot across the road from a small group of oaks in the park when a warbler flew over and landed in one of the trees. It was a Swainson's Warbler and I had watched it for about thirty seconds when it flew down into a dense thicket of undergrowth and vines near the edge of Moore's Creek. A little later, as I went back to the car, I heard a Swainson's Warbler—song I am quite familiar with—and as the bird was singing from the same thicket in which the first warbler disappeared, I assumed it was the same bird. Each time I approached the thicket, the bird flew across the creek and returned when I started back to the car. This happened several times but as my time was limited I had to leave without searching for the nest. The bird was back and singing as I drove away and I believe that a pair was nesting there.—GREG MASSEY, *Wilmington, N. C., June 20, 1960.* (Wilmington is well within the breeding range of Swainson's Warbler but this secretive bird is seldom reported.—*Dept. Ed.*)

Redstart Nesting in Eastern North Carolina.—I noticed in the December (1959) *Chat* that Mount Olive (Wayne County) is the farthest point east that Am. Redstarts have been suspected of nesting (in North Carolina). I found about twenty pairs of Redstarts in Toisnot Swamp, just north of Wilson (Wilson County), N. C., on June 6, 1960. I located two nests, each with four eggs. I observed a female Redstart on one of the nests.—GREG MASSEY, *Wilmington, N. C., June 20, 1960.* (Wilson is a few miles east of Mount Olive and about 40 miles north. In view of the fact that Redstarts nest in Dismal Swamp in southeastern Virginia, other reports of nesting might be anticipated from northeastern North Carolina.—*Dept. Ed.*)

52; Ruddy Turnstone, 3; Am. Woodcock, 1; Common Snipe, 1; Whimbrel, 6; Spotted Sandpiper, 1; Solitary Sandpiper, 17; Willet, 174; Greater Yellowlegs, 80; Lesser Yellowlegs, 43; Pectoral Sandpiper, 30; Least Sandpiper, 8; Dunlin, 260; Dowitcher (sp.), 100; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 2; Western Sandpiper, 38; Sanderling, 28; Herring Gull, 249; Ring-billed Gull, 296; Laughing Gull, 7; Bonaparte's Gull, 1; Gull-billed Tern, 12; Forster's Tern, 2; Common Tern, 2; Least Tern, 396; Royal Tern, 115; Caspian Tern, 33; Black Skimmer, 200; Mourning Dove, 112; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 4; Great Horned Owl, 6; Barred Owl, 1; Chuck-will's-widow, 18; Common Nighthawk, 8; Chimney Swift, 106; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 7; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 45; Pileated Woodpecker, 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 14; Red-headed Woodpecker, 9; Hairy Woodpecker, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 8; Red-cockaded Woodpecker, 7; Eastern Kingbird, 23; Great Crested Flycatcher, 68; Acadian Flycatcher, 3; Least Flycatcher, 1; Eastern Wood Pewee, 4; Tree Swallow, 375; Rough-winged Swallow, 3; Barn Swallow, 103; Purple Martin, 166; Blue Jay, 212; Common Crow, 75; Fish Crow, 55; Carolina Chickadee, 26; Tufted Titmouse, 59; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 32; Carolina Wren, 50; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 7; Mockingbird, 164; Catbird, 17; Brown Thrasher, 61; Robin, 2; Wood Thrush, 49; Hermit Thrush, 3; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 11; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 54; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 129; Loggerhead Shrike, 2; Starling, 192; White-eyed Vireo, 53; Yellow-throated Vireo, 28; Red-eyed Vireo, 63; Black-and-white Warbler, 4; Prothonotary Warbler, 44; Parula Warbler, 356; Yellow Warbler, 4; Myrtle Warbler, 39; Black-throated Green Warbler, 5; Cerulean Warbler, 1; Yellow-throated Warbler, 95; Pine Warbler, 19; Prairie Warbler, 47; Louisiana Waterthrush, 1; Kentucky Warbler, 2; Yellowthroat, 28; Yellow-breasted Chat, 4; Hooded Warbler, 42; House Sparrow, 229; Eastern Meadowlark, 77; Redwinged Blackbird, 457; Orchard Oriole, 49; Baltimore Oriole, 2; Boat-tailed Grackle, 303; Common Grackle, 58; Brown-headed Cowbird, 1; Summer Tanager, 34; Cardinal, 210; Blue Grosbeak, 3; Indigo Bunting, 5; Painted Bunting, 24; Am. Goldfinch, 54; Rufous-sided Towhee, 132; Ipswich Sparrow, 1; Savannah Sparrow, 194; Henslow's Sparrow, 2; Sharp-tailed Sparrow, 2; Seaside Sparrow, 12; Vesper Sparrow, 2; Bachman's Sparrow, 11; Chipping Sparrow, 56; Field Sparrow, 10; White-throated Sparrow, 447; Swamp Sparrow, 13; Song Sparrow, 1. **Total**, 156 species, 8131 individuals.—Catherine Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Appleberry, Maurice V. Barnhill, III, Dot Earle, John M. Irvine, Jr. (compiler), Harry Lattimer, Greg Massey, Polly Mebane, Mary Ulrich, Marie Vander Schalie.



For technical reasons Volume 24 will be numbered 1-2, 3A, 3B, 4.

The editor's resignation has been accepted to take effect with the completion of this volume. He hopes to have the new editor's name on the masthead of the December number.



Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, chiefly in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	\$1.00	Contributing	\$25.00
Supporting	\$5.00	Affiliated Club	\$2.00
Life—\$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)			

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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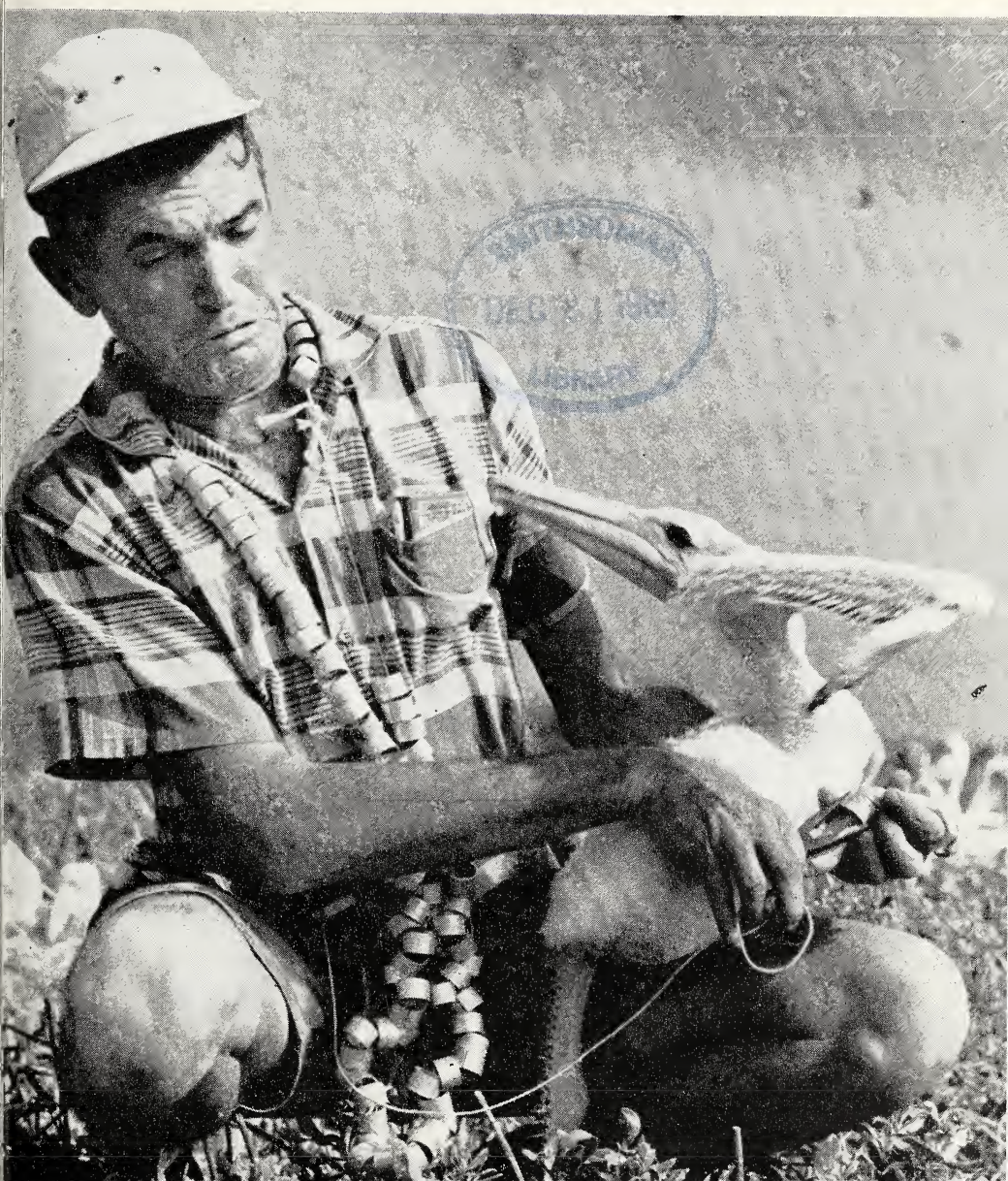
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Cover photo. John Thompson banding a young pelican. Photo by Jack Dermid.

The Chat

BANDING YOUNG BIRDS IN N. C. NESTING COLONIES

Harry T. Davis

The placing of numbered bands on the legs of trapped wild birds has been practiced in the United States, under government sponsorship since 1920. Since the band marks the bird as an individual much is learned about the life of birds when bands are recovered. It is found that bands on the larger species are more readily recovered. Many of the large water birds nest in colonies along the North Carolina coast and large numbers of the young may be banded with relative ease just before they have reached the flying state.

With the above in mind a small group from the State Museum and Carolina Bird Club began banding gulls, terns, skimmers and herons at Pea Island in 1940. With few exceptions this has been carried on every year. As the National Park took over at Pea Island, colonies to the south have had attention. Extensive banding has been done at Ocracoke, Cape Lookout, Starvation Island and Battery Island. At the Ocracoke Island site, Shell Castle Island, Brown Pelicans have been consistently banded at their north-west nesting site on the east coast. In the same area are most of the known nesting sites of Royal Terns. Other reports have been made and the banding for 1959 and 1960 are covered here.

Bands assigned to Bob Wolff were placed (1959) as follows:

Brown Pelicans	—	Shell Castle Island	116
Black Skimmers	—	Oregon Inlet	84
		Drum Inlet	11
Laughing Gulls	—	Drum Inlet	62
Royal Terns	—	Shell Castle Island	41
Common Terns	—	Oregon Inlet	9
		Drum Inlet	11
			<hr/> 334

Returns from the above were four Pelicans taken for the National Zoo, Washington, D. C., one taken at Jay Cee Beach, Florida, in February, 1960, and one taken at Jupiter Island, Florida, in March, 1960. One of the Black Skimmers was taken at Mayport, Florida, in December, 1959.

John Thompson's bands were placed as follows:

Black Skimmers	—	Cape Lookout	79
Common Terns	—	Cape Lookout	78
Gull-billed Terns	—	Cape Lookout	3
Laughing Gulls	—	Shell Castle Island	56
Royal Terns	—	Shell Castle Island	46
			<hr/> 262

Of these, three Gull-billed Terns and one Common Tern were trapped adults.



Young pelicans.

The writer's bands were placed on:

Laughing Gulls	—	Shell Castle Island	9
Common Egret	—	Starvation Island	1
Louisiana Herons	—	Starvation Island	3
Little Blue Herons	—	Starvation Island	4
Snow Geese	—	Wilson County	2
Canada Goose	—	Wilson County	1
Woodcock	—	Raleigh	1
Red-tailed Hawk	—	Raleigh	1
Clapper Rail	—	Raleigh	1

23

Bill Anderson, CBC member, of Charlotte, took responsibility for banding at Battery Island, Southport, and reported the following:

Louisiana Heron	—	Battery Island	9
Little Blue Heron	—	Battery Island	5
Black-crowned Night Heron	—	Battery Island	2
Snowy Egret	—	Battery Island	3
Common Egret	—	Battery Island	1
Black Skimmer	—	Battery Island	5
Least Tern	—	Battery Island	5

30

Some interesting returns from the above, in addition to the black skimmers and terns normally found and reported from Florida and Cuba, is a black skimmer that turned up in Newfoundland the second September after banding. Two Laughing Gulls were in Newfoundland three months

after hatching at Cape Lookout, while a third was shot there the following March.

One Black Skimmer banded at a Cape May (N. J.) colony was trapped on a nest at Cape Lookout three years later.

For 1960 the reports are not all in, but John Thompson banded:

Black Skimmers	—	Cape Lookout	87
Common Terns	—	Cape Lookout	117
Royal Terns	—	Cape Lookout	2
Least Tern	—	Cape Lookout	1
Gull-billed Terns	—	Cape Lookout	2
			<hr/>
			209



Adult pelicans on their nests, alertly watching the banding operations.



Brown pelicans sailing over the rookery. The wing spread is about 6½ feet.

The writer banded (1960) large birds as follows:

Louisiana Heron	—	Starvation Island	42
Cattle Egret	—	Starvation Island	12
Snowy Egret	—	Starvation Island	4
Little Blue Heron	—	Starvation Island	4
Glossy Ibis	—	Starvation Island	1
Common Egrets	—	Starvation Island	25
Black-crowned			
Night Herons	—	Starvation Island	4
Brown Pelicans	—	Shell Castle Island	85
Royal Terns	—	Shell Castle Island	599

776

Thus there have been many of these birds banded through the years, and they are birds with longer normal life than the small song birds. If observers will check legs of dead or captured birds there should be many returns to provide information.

For the banding this season storm tides that rose some two feet above normal, about June 10th, had marked effects.

In previous years the young pelicans on Shell Castle Island have ranged in from fresh eggs, hatching, to the flying young, and old nests were intact. This year the 85 banded were all near flying age. There were only six nests remaining intact this season, and these were freshly built (green vegetation) on June 29th. Some had fresh eggs, and three nests had the 5 black blobs of flesh (too small to band) which are newly hatched pelicans. Last season 116 were banded.

The young Royal Terns (estimated 3,000) also did not have the usual smaller sizes and nests with eggs. They were all of good banding size or in flight. Another bit of evidence was the fact that we found a colony of about 60 Royal Tern nests, with eggs not hatched, on one of the Cape Lookout Islands, some 40 miles southwest of their usual nesting area. This was on June 25th. These were evidently a second nesting and most of the eggs did not hatch.

There was a similar group of 16 nests of Royal Terns at this same place in the 1957 season, and these did not produce young.

From the above the conclusion is that an abnormally high tide, in mid-June, is a natural disaster for these birds. The young must be large enough to cling on the remnant of reef that is not submerged when the tide sweeps over the low-lying beaches or islands. However, such disasters are normal mortality when populations are not critically small.

Banding for the past season should include the Evening Grosbeaks that were, for the first season, banded in North Carolina, by John L. Thompson, Rocky Mount, and by John N. Coffey, Jr., Raleigh. Many other birds, such as the Purple Finch, were trapped and banded in the process. The Evening Grosbeaks are conspicuous birds that are relatively easy to trap and hundreds have been banded since they moved into New England.

Between October and April, this winter, Mr. Coffey trapped and banded 95 grosbeaks, 118 Purple Finches, and various other species. Among the latter one Fox sparrow was in Nova Scotia two months later. Banded Evening Grosbeaks (5) were trapped that were banded in New York and New England one to four years before.

Mr. Thompson banded 124 Evening Grosbeaks, at his Rocky Mount Station, using mist nets to capture them. Along with these he banded 342 Purple Finches and other species. One grosbeak he banded on March 29th was retrapped on Long Island on May 3rd. He trapped 7 grosbeaks that had been banded in Pennsylvania and New England, from one to seven years before.

The photos on pages 80-82 are all by Jack Dermid. The Club is greatly indebted to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for the gift of the blocks (including the cover photo). They were first published in *Wildlife in North Carolina*.

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A SEARCH FOR KITES

REBEKAH NORWOOD

Fired with enthusiasm by the account of our friends, Dr. and Mrs. W. G. Cobey, of their trip to Florida in which they added to their life list, among others, the Everglade Kite and the Swallow-tailed Kite, my husband and I set forth on May 24, 1959, in an effort to duplicate their trip.

Our search for the Everglade took us to Lake Okeechobee, the one place in this country where is found the kind of snail that is the sole item in the diet of the Everglade. By means of a trip in an airboat we went into that area of the lake where our guide knew these birds could be found. After waiting a while, not too terribly long, Joe, my husband saw the first one—a male—as it flew over. The prominent white rump patch made identification easy. However, we kept waiting expectantly for more. And we were handsomely rewarded. At one time there were perched in sight 3 males, 1 female, and 2 or 3 immatures. How thrilling to be looking at so rare a bird as the Everglade Kite!

Our first encounter with the Swallow-tailed Kite was in the Everglades National Forest as we were driving along the road which leads to Flamingo. A "first" is always exciting, but the grace and beauty of this Swallow-tail served only to heighten the thrill. Later that day while at the Park Ranger Station we saw another at closer range as it flew over, thus affording us a better view of the black and white color pattern and the graceful forked tail. Hardly had we left the station when a flock of six Swallow-tails came into sight. We watched for several minutes, I suppose, as they flew over and finally went out of sight.

With two kites to our credit now, we began to want more than ever to see the Mississippi—the only other kite that one is likely to see in eastern United States. Our looking was in vain, however, no matter how promising the spot.

We have long since learned that hope and patience are two attributes that a birder must either be born with or acquire. So . . . not to be outdone, we decided to make another attempt for the Mississippi on July 3—this time along the Santee River in South Carolina. Driving to McClellanville, we were joined by Mr. and Mrs. Jay Shuler and their nephew, Harrington Morrison. Unproductive as far as the Mississippi was concerned, we did see one Swallow-tail, this Carolina one being just as graceful as the Florida ones. This jaunt also included a delightful visit to Ardea, the R. D. Edwards home, where Painted Buntings were as common at their feeders as Cardinals are at our own. That being the case, the trip was far from a total loss.

Still determined, we went to Augusta, Georgia, the following week-end to try our luck along the Savannah River. This time good fortune rode with us, thanks to excellent directions furnished us by Dr. Fred Denton and Mr. Ivan Tompkins. Driving along on top of the dike, we had reached the area behind the Augusta airport when finally we glimpsed our first Mississippi Kite. Perched in the top of a small sapling, he stayed there a wonderfully long time while we almost leisurely observed the beauty of his subdued coloring: the pale gray of the head gradually darkening into the black of the tail, and the red of the eye furnishing contrast. Later on we saw three in flight. Their graceful aerial acrobatics were most fascinating; their maneuvering and diving, their use of the tail as rudder, unceasingly interesting.

Continued on page 91.

LATE SPRING OBSERVATIONS FROM BATTERY ISLAND, NORTH CAROLINA

DAVID W. JOHNSTON

On May 14, 1960, the writer, accompanied by Robert McRitchie, visited Battery Island, near Southport, Brunswick County, N. C. Our visit spanned several hours in the morning, and was largely confined to the sand and dune portion of the island. The weather—clear, sunny and warm—afforded ideal conditions for our purposes. Of the many ornithological observations made on the island by Funderburg, Quay, Adams, and others, most attention has been focussed on the heron rookery, but since we were unable to reach the rookery, most of our observations were made on the other portion of the island. These observations, though somewhat random, are presented here to supplement the extant knowledge of birds on Battery Island.

Ecologically, Battery Island really consists of several distinct habitats (Wells, 1952) as well as being divided physically by a salt marsh creek into two islands. One of these contains live oaks in which the herons nest and the other is largely composed of partially vegetated sand and shell dunes. The cordgrass salt marsh between the two islands has its own distinctive bird populations, one member of which is the Clapper Rail. The sandy beach of the dune portion of the island is relatively narrow, as compared with the beach at Fort Caswell, for example; hence, the birds which breed, rest, or feed on this beach are rather restricted in number. Since the dune area has a scattering of trees in addition to the more open sandy and shell regions, it, too, may afford certain microhabitat requirements for different bird species.

- A. **The heron rookery.** Unfortunately tidal conditions made it impossible for us to cross the salt marsh and thus explore the colony of nesting egrets and herons in detail. We did, however, spend much time observing and photographing these nesting birds with the aid of a 25 x telescope. Nests of the Common Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) and Snowy Egret (*Leucophoyx thula*) were apparently the most abundant, some of these containing well-developed young birds. Also noted were significant numbers of adult Little Blue (*Florida caerulea*) and Louisiana (*Hydranassa tricolor*) herons. Only one Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) and four Glossy Ibises (*Plegadis falcinellus*) were seen. More of these last two species might have been hidden to our view; if not, our figures represent significant reductions in their numbers from previous years as reported by Funderburg and DePoe (1957:88) and Quay and Adams (1956:57). Our failure to find Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) might be attributed to the early date of observation, for in previous years Cattle Egrets were not seen before late May or June except for an observation on May 8, 1957. Since we were unable to reach the colony, it is possible that these egrets were in fact present and nesting but were not flying to and from the colony and thus were simply not observed by us.
- B. **Sand and dune area.** American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*): We noted at least ten pairs of this species, all of which were spaced at approximately 100 feet intervals along the narrow, sandy beach (approx-

imately 25 feet wide at high tide). Four sets of two young each and two sets of one young were located as they remained silent, motionless, and camouflaged in the debris thrown up by the highest tides. All the young appeared to be about one week old. Although the parents were noticeably excited over our presence, none of them demonstrated injury-feigning or "cripple-display" as described by Tomkins (1954:43). At the southeastern end of the sandy beach, there was a nest on a high mound of shells and sand near the water's edge. This nest contained a pipped egg with a dead embryo but a few feet away was a well-camouflaged young bird. Funderburg and Quay (1959:17) mentioned the oystercatcher as nesting only on partially vegetated sand and shell, but this nest was on bare sand and shell close to the water.

On their visit to this island on May 8, 1957, Funderburg and DePoe (1957) recorded no nesting activities in the seven Oystercatchers seen then. However, egg-laying dates for this and probably other shorebird species vary annually as suggested by Burleigh (1958:229) and Sprunt and Chamberlain (1949:209). Certainly the date when these young were located on Battery Island is significantly earlier than the dates in June mentioned for this species by Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley (1942:124). Finally, in a study of this species' ecologic requirements Tomkins (1954:38) suggested that nearby oysterbeds are essential, especially since the parents feed oysters to their young; within a mile or less of this Battery Island location were numerous oysterbeds exposed at low tide. Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*): At least 25 Willets were seen on the sandy beach and on the partially vegetated sand and shell mounds away from the water. It was in this latter habitat, indeed, among the tern and skimmer nests, that several nests, all containing three eggs, were found. In 1957, Funderburg and DePoe located five nests here, all of which contained four eggs. Thus, it is likely that the sets found by us represented incomplete clutches.

Gull-billed (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) and Least (*Sterna albifrons*) Terns: Approximately 40 Gull-billed and 20 Least Terns were noted in the higher, vegetated sand and shell mounds mentioned above. We located eight nests containing one egg each and five nests each with two eggs, and assigned these to the Gull-billed species. The Least Terns might have had a few nests in this area too, but it seemed as though most of them were not yet laying. In fact, only a few Least Terns actually lit among these nests after we left, whereas the majority of them were to be found on the sandy beach engaged in courtship feeding as described by Tomkins (1959:317).

No nests for either of these species were reported by Funderburg and DePoe (1957:88), nor is a specific mention made of Battery Island as a breeding area for them by Funderburg and Quay (1959:15), though "terns" are mentioned by Funderburg and DePoe (1958:83). For the Least Tern, this is not particularly surprising, especially since wide fluctuations in nesting times, numbers, and successes have been emphasized by Tomkins (1958, 1959).

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops nigra*): Forty adults and seven nests, each with four eggs, were located among the tern nests already mentioned.

Continued on page 91.



BACKYARD BIRDING

Mrs. E. M. Henderson of Columbia, S. C., wrote in as follows:

Backyard birding is still big thing with me, as I seem to be in my own back yard more than anywhere else! We have had some cutting down of the wooded area near us, with the prospect of the building of a shopping center, but I still see a good many birds in my yard. This spring, I had the following migrating warblers: Black-and-white, Hooded, Parula, Prairie, Redstart, Worm-eating, Black-throated Blue, Blackpoll and Ovenbird. The Ovenbird is my pet. I have been seeing one in my yard, spring and fall, since 1939. I can always expect him when the fern or bracken grows up in the side yard. He even sings for us, which tickles me to death! I think he likes my messy wooded lot, for he stays around for several weeks. This year, I saw him first about April 14, then on May 2, I saw him walking around. May 6 was the latest date I had on him, so by that time, I figured he had gone. Then on Monday morning, May 16, I was putting water in the birdbath about 8:30, when I saw him walking about not twenty feet from me. I had the nozzle off the hose, so began to make a spray by holding my thumb over it. Do you know, he kept coming closer, circling me. I held my breath, and he didn't seem to know I was human and so came closer and closer. Then he found the spray and loved it! He took a shower, just as the thrushes do. It was unbelievable! He played under the spray for at least ten minutes. After a few puddles formed, he bathed in them. Then he flew over into the next lot, about twenty feet away, and spread out in a sunny spot to dry. He came almost to my feet several times and never knew I was there. I have kept dates on him for a long time. We usually see him in October, but last year I saw one in my yard on August 23.

The snow and ice storms of early March did much harm to the birds around our homes. One report that came to us from Mrs. M. O. Griffin of Route 2, Fort Mill, S. C., seemed to me typical of the conditions that existed for the first two weeks in March. She wrote:

I have been walking around my place this morning trying to determine the loss among my feathered friends. I found one dead Robin and two Myrtle warblers. I have been told that the loss of robins during the snow has been very heavy. Some said they could catch them by hand, the birds were so weak. The snow has been on the ground here for two weeks, but between snows it would thaw enough for wildlife to get water. I put out feed every few hours, and feel that I kept some birds from starving. I have Cardinals by the dozens. They fared well, as so many people put out

corn. I put out chick feed, oatmeal and bread crumbs. Suet would freeze too hard to do much good. I heated liver-mush, and they really ate it up fast. I had several mockingbirds, and they gave me trouble trying to run the smaller birds away. They seemed to hate the warblers! I had many White-throats and Song sparrows, to say nothing of English sparrows and starlings. I had a pair of Brown Thrashers all winter, and I heard them singing this morning. (March 15, 1960) The Carolina Wrens sang every day, through it all. There are also two Flickers, the Chickadees and Titmice, and one day a Hermit Thrush. There were lots of Redwings, and several Meadowlarks on the lawn, and still a few Robins. They picked the wrong time to start north! They were here in flocks the second day of the snow. I had lots of privet bushes, but they cleaned them up in two days. We have three Towhees that stay about the yard, and will come close when I put out feed. I've heard that quail and doves are dying. My biggest worry now is that I haven't seen a Bluebird since it snowed. I had five in the yard all winter, but my neighbor said he had found several frozen. I tried to feed them, but they won't come to my feeders. I've "whipped" myself because I didn't think to dig earthworms from the barn and put them out for them. I have a Fox Sparrow in my yard now, the first I have ever seen. It's a pretty thing, I didn't know they were so colorful. If you have any Bluebirds or hear any news of them, please let me know. I have always made a special effort to protect them about our yard. I hope conditions won't turn out to be as bad as they seem now.

From Claude A. Murphy, of Charlotte, N. C., I received two letters, from which I will quote the following items:

Mrs. Potter suggested that I write you of my experience with a family of Redstarts. I arrived at ten-thirty a.m. on Monday, June 6, for a visit at my brother's home, six miles east of Fayetteville in Cumberland County. I found a nest of Redstarts on a lower limb of an elm tree. The nest was in the crotch at the extreme end of the limb, and the parent were feeding the young continuously. Around six-thirty, the young left the nest and perched side by side on the limb, all chattering. They were beautiful little things. All underneath was greenish yellow, while their backs were brown. The next day, they were up in the tree, chattering. All was silent after that, so they had probably moved on. In another elm, about thirty feet high, was a Kingbird nest on one side of the tree and a Mockingbird nest on the other. I cut down the Redstart nest and gave it to Mrs. Potter. It was about two inches across the top and about four inches deep, made mostly of grass.

This story was told me by my niece: Several years ago, Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Gales of Fayetteville, N. C., picked up a young Robin that had fallen out of the nest and nurtured him to maturity. When local earthworms made him sick, they bought "fishing worms" for him, which agreed with him. Their parakeet was jealous of the bird, and went so far as to bite off part of his bill. Even though they turned "Jimmy" out, the robin continued to come back for awhile. The next year, a Robin showed up in their yard. He would not come when they called him, but would sit nearby, fluttering his wings. Looking at him through binoculars, they could see that a small part of his bill was gone. So it was Jimmy! Sad to say, the next year he did not return.

Several times this spring, we were surprised to see a pair of Wood Ducks fly across our yard. So I was very interested when Mrs. Charles sent me Harry Hampton's "Woods and Waters" column (from the *Columbia State*) containing his story of his "Front Yard Ducks". On April 17,

Mrs. Hampton had first noticed the ducks fly into a big oak. When they investigated, they found a hole in the dead tree about thirty feet from the ground in which the hen had her nest. Watching one afternoon, they saw the hen fly to the tree trunk and climb rapidly up to the hole. The next time they saw the duck was the 27th, when she came alone, since the drake deserts her after incubation starts. On the afternoon of May 19, the Hamptons could see through binoculars the mother duck's head and neck in the nest opening, and every now and then flashes of something white or light, which they realized later were the ducklings hopping up to look out from their mother's back. The next morning, Mr. Hampton saw two baby ducks hop up on the sill of their home, then leap up and outward. Though they saw only these two little ducks when they went out to look, later they found the tracks of the duck and about ten or twelve or more babies where they had crossed the driveway. They seemed to be heading toward the creek swamp, about six hundred yards away, where there were some flat places which the creek made into pools. The nest tree was about three-quarters of a mile from the creek. Mr. Hampton says that Kortright says in his book (*Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America*) that this "upward and outward leap" is the method of descent of baby Wood Ducks. We have all heard stories of people having seen the mother duck carrying them down, either on her back or in her bill, etc., or with the young ducks clinging to her feathers (Forbush). We would be interested in hearing from our readers on this subject.

Mr. Hampton also had a report on July 5, 1960, of a male Scarlet Tanager in his front yard!

John M. Williams of Hendersonville, N. C., sent a description of a device he had thought up to keep birds from flying into picture windows. In essence a couple of pin-wheels are mounted on a stand close in front of the windows. Their motion seems to deflect the birds. He would like other birders to try out his idea, and report its results to us, hoping that it will prove as effective as Mr. Chamberlain's "Owl-eyes"!

Early this spring, a small green book came into our hands. The title of this slim volume is "Living With The Birds", by Jennie Shoemaker Charles. I think it is fitting that I tell you of this book here in Backyard Birding, for it is made up of parts of stories once published in *The State* newspaper of Columbia, S. C., by Mrs. Charles, telling of the activities of birds in and around her home in West Columbia. In the front of the book is a map of the area, in which Mrs. Charles spent twelve years accumulating this material. The dedication was omitted, but I know that Mrs. Charles meant it to honor her only daughter, who had helped her so lovingly and so faithfully in all her bird work. At the bottom of the title page is a drawing of the female Carolina Wren feeding her family of young in a nest built in an old shoe! We have seen that shoe ourselves, and heard the interesting facts that Mrs. Charles learned by constantly watching the birds. The Carolina Wren is the subject of the first chapter, and is followed by discussions of about fifty more of our backyard birds. There is a chapter about "Inland Waterfowl" and "Crippled Birds", as well as information about the enemies of songbirds. "An Early Morning Tramp" makes us want to join our author, for the habitat in which she strolled is typical throughout the central part of both the Carolinas, which is just the reason all members of the Carolina Bird Club should own this book! Her interest in young people is related in "Birding with Girl Scouts" and "Birding with Guns and Glasses". Mrs. Charles closes her book with a summary of

the great amount of information that can be observed "From A Kitchen Window" . . . So write Mrs. G. E. Charles, Box 70, Aynor, S. C., and send her three dollars, plus postage, and add this backyard birding book to your nature shelf. It shows clearly how much can be learned by diligent, day by day, watching in our own yards and gardens.

A. R. Faver, Dept. Editor, Eastover, S. C.

Continued from page 85.

Thus crowned with success, are we satisfied? No! Since there are records (although rare) of kites in North Carolina, we now want to see them in our own Tar Heel State. Then, we can always hope for a White-tailed Kite. Did I say something a moment ago about hope?

Continued from page 87.

It is likely that all nests were not discovered, but the number of adults is similar to the number reported by Funderburg and DePoe (1957:88). Bent (1947:311-312) regarded the skimmer as a late nester (June) in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Similar late nesting dates were reported from North Carolina by Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley (1942:183) and South Carolina by Sprunt and Chamberlain (1949:283).

Other species. The absence of certain species was significant. Only one Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*) was seen on the sandy beach and I suspect that this species' general absence as a breeding bird might be attributed to the absence of a wide, sandy beach and dune area. At nearby Fort Caswell, several pairs of these plovers were occupying territories among the higher, sandy, and more extensive dunes.

On or about the island we observed the following additional species: Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Herring, Ring-billed, and Laughing Gulls, Royal Tern, Bald Eagle (im.), Osprey, Clapper Rail, Boat-tailed Grackle, Nighthawk, Mourning Dove, Redwinged Blackbird, and Seaside Sparrow.

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Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, chiefly in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	\$1.00	Contributing	\$25.00
Supporting	\$5.00	Affiliated Club	\$2.00
Life—\$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)			

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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THE CHAT

Volume 24 Number 4
DECEMBER, 1960



THE CHAT

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December, 1960

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Continued on inside back cover.

Cover photo—Downy Spotted Sandpiper. See page 100. Photo contributed by author.

The Chat

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

It was nice to see so many of you at the meeting in Blowing Rock. There was a goodly number of the Executive Committee present and club business was enacted.

It was announced in the September Newsletter that Dr. Charles Blake had resigned as editor of The Chat but had agreed to continue through the December issue. He has maintained the high standard of The Chat and rendered a fine service to our club.

The Executive Committee has been working since August trying to find a capable person to succeed Dr. Blake. The committee tapped Dr. David W. Johnston, Associate Professor of Biology, Wake Forest College and he has accepted.

Dr. Johnston was born in Miami, Florida but moved to Georgia at a very early age. While a member of the Boy Scouts he first became seriously interested in birds. He did his undergraduate work at the University of Georgia and pursued his doctorate at the University of California. His wife is the former Laurie Nicholson of Athens. They have a lovely son and daughter, Jimmy and Pat.

Dr. Johnston has been on two ornithological assignments. In 1958 he did a study of the crow population of the State of Washington and in 1960 a survey of the birds of Alaska. (Those who attended the Blowing Rock meeting enjoyed his report of the Alaskan assignment).

A book about crows, authored by Dr. Johnston, is now in the hands of the publishers. He has written articles for The Auk, The Condor, and The Wilson Journal. For several years he was editor of the Oriole, the journal of the Georgia Ornithological Society. He taught at Mercer before coming to Wake Forest.

The Carolina Bird Club is indeed fortunate to have a person of Dr. Johnston's calibre serve as editor of The Chat.

GILBERT J. BRISTOW



BACKYARD BIRDING

While my family and I were vacationing at Garden City Beach, So. Car., the week of August 21st, my son presented me with an injured Barn Swallow that he had picked up on the highway. "Swallow" was unable to fly, but we could find no evidence of broken bones. He submitted meekly to having his cuts tended, accepted a drink of water from a tablespoon, and begged for food in a low, mellow voice. I immediately set the children to killing flies and moths for him. He took them readily from our hands at the rate of 250 to 300 a day. During the day he would sun himself on the screened porch and about dark we would carry him to a window to roost for the night. After three or four days, he started trying his wings on short flights and chasing insects across the floor. He also loved his daily bath in a shallow bowl that we placed in a sunny corner of the porch. When we were ready to leave the beach, "Swallow" was ensconced in a peach basket for the ride home.

On arriving home, he was given the freedom of the house and soon learned his way from room to room. He chose, as a roosting place, a corner of the book case and every evening he flew in to wedge himself tightly in a corner to sleep. Every morning he flew to each window to snap up any insects that may have come in during the night. He was exceedingly tame and a source of pleasure to the neighborhood children who delighted in catching all manner of bugs to bring him. Today, I am painting his portrait. He sits patiently on his window sill perch, watching me with his amazingly dark and intelligent eyes. As I try to capture his beautiful metallic blue, cinnamon and buff colors and the long, slender wings and forked tail, I fervently hope that he will soon be strong enough to join his wild brothers.

On the 12th day of September I happened to be going out into the backyard from the house and at that particular moment my mind was not on "Swallow". As I opened the door he followed right behind me and flew across the deep ditch to the wire fence beyond, perched there a few minutes and then took off up into the sky over a big open field. We watched him until he disappeared over the woods in the distance in a southeasterly direction. He seemed in perfect command of himself now.

As a matter of fact, as we stood there realizing how much we were going to miss our pet, I remembered that for the last few days he had been flying freely all through the house and catching insects in the air and was probably more than ready to resume his fall journey to the wintering grounds of his companions in Mexico or South America.—Mrs. Ellison D. Smith, 1626 Shady Lane, Columbia, S. C.

The illustration by Mrs. Smith on the next page shows her swallow.



In Memoriam

We record with sorrow the death of Sally Sandifer on September 17, 1960. Miss Sandifer, a native of York, S. C., taught for years in the High Schools of Charlotte. She had a deep interest in nature study and participated in the activities of the local bird club and of CBC whenever possible. B.R.C.

BOOK REVIEWS

Florida Waterfowl Populations, Habitat and Management. — E. B. Chamberlain, Jr., Chief, Game Management Division of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Technical Bulletin No. 7, 1960. Contribution of Federal Aid Project W-19-R., vi + 62 pp., tables, figures. Paper. Single copies free upon application to the Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.—Presents the more important results of the first ten years of the Florida Waterfowl Survey undertaken under a Federal Aid Project to determine facts upon which to base sound management practices at the vast controlled and uncontrolled wetland areas. This ambitious undertaking required the collection of masses of data from all possible areas to permit classification and evaluation of habitat types and their present

use by the waterfowl at this southern terminal of the Atlantic Flyway. The information is ably assembled and interpreted.

Five major habitat groups are described and discussed with reference to utilization, development and management. Growing out of this habitat study, and a very valuable addition to it, is the determination of water quality tolerance of *sixty-three* of the more common aquatic plants, most of which furnish wildfowl food or cover or both. The findings are tabulated under such headings as Salinity, Alkalinity, Hardness, pH value, etc., in groups and sub-groups.

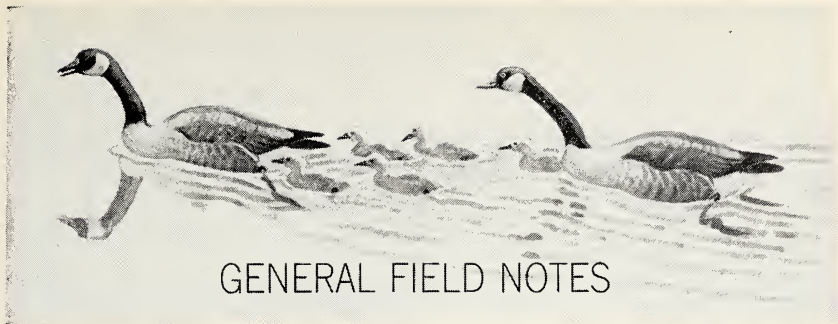
The work includes an investigation of duration and degree of water fluctuations, providing proof of the extreme importance of water level in the production and maintenance of useful habitat.

In the population studies, geese, about fifteen species of "common" ducks, and coot are considered in some detail. Tables present Florida's mid-winter inventories from 1950 through 1958 and census figures by months at five key locations. It is interesting to note that in the mid-winter inventories, the coot population amounts to one third of the state total waterfowl count. The interest of the Florida hunters in coot is shown in the estimate of the annual kill in which about one half of the total wildfowl taken are coot. The census figures by months point out the fact that the dabbling ducks—heavy contributors to the hunter success—reach their peak numbers after the close of the hunting season. This, the author states, would support requests for a later hunting season. This is undoubtedly true. It appears to this reviewer, however, that the present good population of dabblers might be due in part to the unmolested period that now enables them to store fat for migration and that decisions for later hunting should be approached with caution.

Interesting data and comments are presented on Harvest and on Hunting Economics. A section on Land Use and Management offers means of sustaining and improving Florida's wetlands for the hunter and for the hunted. Apparently much of it could be applied with profit to the wetlands of the Southeast. The bulletin is concluded with a valuable list of 67 references to literature pertinent to the subject.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Wadmalaw Island, S. C., October 3, 1960.*

Pocket Check List of Georgia Birds.—Georgia Ornithological Society, 1960. Field Guide size; paper covers; 120 sheets, one side blank for notes. Order from Ralph Ramsey, 679 Amsterdam Ave., N. E., Atlanta, Ga., \$0.50. A very briefly annotated list of 342 species and a few sub-species compiled largely from Burleigh's Georgia Birds (1958). Compiler or compilers unnamed. Names and sequence follow the 1957 A. O. U. Check List. A handy companion for the Field Guide. In general, the notes are quite adequate but there is considerable variation in treatment, especially of the common species. Probably typical of the more complete listings: BROAD-WINGED HAWK.—Fairly common summer resident north of the Fall Line, breeding. Scarce summer resident south of the Fall Line. Example of the variation in treatment of species of identical status: CHIMNEY SWIFT.—Common summer resident, breeding. PURPLE MARTIN.—Common summer resident throughout the state. In other instances, where it is noted that specimens

Continued on page 106.



GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. B. Chamberlain, Robert A. Norris, Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Wadmalaw Island, S. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

Gadwall Breeding at Bull's Island, S. C.—In a letter dated July 11, 1960, to E. B. Chamberlain, Hoyt Mills, Fish and Wildlife Service representative on Bull's Island, stated that he had just seen a female Gadwall with ten young on one of the ponds on the island and extended an invitation to see it. On July 13, E. B., and B. R. Chamberlain went to Bull's Island and had the good fortune to find John K. Terres, Editor of Audubon Magazine, at the mainland landing, also headed for the island. The party proceeded to the pond where the Gadwall was located. The female and young were not found but this is understandable in view of the extent of the pond and the great masses of vegetation spread over it. We did find a male Gadwall feeding leisurely across the pond and watched it through a 20x Balscope at length. Mr. Mills' familiarity with the ducks of his area remove any question of the validity of his observation.

Bull's Island is far removed from the normal nesting range of the Gadwall. This is also true of the Ruddy Duck, several pairs of which raised young on the island this summer for the second season. Both will be looked for with interest next year.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Wadmalaw Island, S. C., September 15, 1960.*

Blue-winged Teal Nesting in Watauga County, N. C.—During my stay at Raven Knob Camp in Watauga County, N. C., this summer (1960), I found a nesting Blue-winged Teal on Lake John Sobotta. I saw the female with six young a number of times. I was surprised at her behavior. When she saw me she swam back and forth uttering a soft whistle. At that time the young were nowhere to be seen. Then she disappeared in the reeds and a moment later I saw her climbing the bank into the woods and the ducklings with her. She was too heavy to get up an especially steep place and slid back, but by doubling her efforts she managed to climb it at the next attempt. My last glimpse of the duck and ducklings was of the family disappearing in the bushes, half way up the bank. Although I waited for sometime they did not reappear. That was about July 15th.—WENDELL P. SMITH, *North Wilkesboro, N. C., Aug. 19, 1960.*

Parasitic Jaeger at Raleigh TV Tower.—On August 26, 1960, a Parasitic Jaeger was found at Raleigh, N. C., at the base of a local TV tower by members of the State Museum staff, J. W. Johnson, David Whitehead, and D. L. Wray of the Entomology Division of the State Department of

Agriculture. The bird had flown into guy wires to the tower and had been killed. It has been added to the State Museum collection.

The Parasitic Jaeger is almost exclusively an off-shore bird. It is included in *Birds of North Carolina* (1942) on the basis of a single bird taken near Cape Lookout in the autumn of 1897. Apparently this is the third North Carolina specimen. One was found on the beach near Oregon Inlet, October 17, 1954, following the passage of hurricane Hazel (*Chat*, 19:28). — D. L. WRAY, *Ruleigh, N. C., Sept. 2, 1960*.

Destruction of Pea Island Laughing Gull Colony in 1960. — On June, 25 1960 my wife and I visited the small colony of Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*) just off Pea Island at Oregon Inlet to check the progress of nesting in connection with a banding study of chicks (see *Chat* 24:24). Two young were found in one nest and one young was found in each of two nests; there were no other young seen and no eggs were found in the nests. All over the small island, known locally as Green Island, were scattered eggs and bits of egg shells and nests; apparently high water (June 9 and 10) had destroyed almost all the nests. About 100 adults circled the colony as if still on territory. We left without banding the young.

On July 10 we returned to Green Island to see if the gulls had begun to renest. As expected, no new nests had been started, and the four young which had previously been found were gone. Perhaps a dozen adults were in the area, but the colony had evidently been deserted.

In 1959 an estimated 250 pairs nested on Green Island and raised at least 100 young to the pre fledging stage; in 1960 evidently no young survived. This incident well illustrates how population dynamics in a colonial species can be influenced greatly by a single environmental factor. It will be of considerable interest to note whether or not the birds return to the island in 1961. JACK P. HAILMAN, 6037 Lake Terrace Circle, Norfolk, Virginia, August 27, 1960.

Gull-Billed Tern Telefeeding. — On the morning of June 18, 1960, I watched a Gull-billed Tern circling over the edge of a small fresh water pond a couple of hundred feet from my porch on Wadmalaw Island, S.C. I had seen the bird off and on for several days over this pond and the repeated appearance puzzled me. Could it be feeding young from my yard? The nearest nesting colony is at Deveaux Bank, at the mouth of the North Edisto River, six or seven miles away. There is no sand beach such as the Gull-bills use that is closer. The season was right for young and the bird was catching something and disappearing.

The pond the bird was hunting over is fringed with an oversupply of water grasses and other aquatic growth, much of it extending several feet into the water. The surface at the time was rather crowded with islands of green and brown algae and some *Sagittaria*. All of this afforded excellent habitat for innumerable dragon-flies, grasshoppers, and the like, and the Gull-bill was sharing the crop with a Green Heron, a pair of Eastern Kingbirds and an occasional Chimney Swift. I set up a study post nearby, and noted the time: 8:45 a.m.

The tern flapped easily around the edge of the pond with and against the clock, with an occasional cut across or a figure 8. I counted a hundred wing beats. The stopwatch showed 35 seconds - a frequency of 2.9 beats per second and faster than I expected but I had never timed a Gull-billed Tern before. Every few minutes it faltered, set its wings and swooped to the surface of the water. Usually the dive ended in a smooth recovery a few feet short of the surface indicating that the prey had been misjudged or had fled. Occasionally fortune changed and the tern picked off an insect, arose with it and swallowed it promptly. Once or twice it dropped its catch and I could only guess that was intentional since no attempt was made at recovery. Suddenly a good catch was made and the tern came up, shifted a large dragon-fly or grasshopper for a better hold and left in a strong stepped up flight over the field and distant tree tops southward. The time was 8:51. The direction seemed right for Deveaux

Bank. I spread my Coast and Geodetic Survey map (#792) and oriented it. With a yardstick across the map I saw that I could not have pointed the way to the Bank more accurately than the tern did.

I had watched the bird hunting, head down, for six minutes. It made the 300 foot circuit of the pond in 9 or 10 seconds, a rate of just about 21 miles per hour. The air-line distance to Deveaux Bank is 6.7 miles. I could not check the travel speed but I could see that it exceeded the hunting speed appreciably. Assuming only 25 m.p.h., a conservative figure, the tern could go the 13.4 mile round trip in 32 minutes. I was pleased to see the bird come back at 9:31. It had been gone 40 minutes.

During the following few days I was able to accurately time the departures with food and the return of the Gull-bill. The results are tabulated here. In no case did it return in less than 34 minutes and that was its first trip of that day. The study satisfies me that this Gull-billed Tern was regularly going seven miles from its nest for food for its young.

Date	Known hunting time (min.)	Departure with food.	Return.	Interval absent (min.)
June 18	6	8:51 a.m.	9:31 a.m.	40
June 18	6	9:48 a.m.	10:32 a.m.	44
June 18	39	11:11 a.m.	Had not returned at 12:-24. Watch discontinued.	
June 19	6	7:47 a.m.	8:37 a.m.	50
June 19	2	11:52 a.m.	12:33 p.m.	41
June 19	15	12:48 p.m.	1:41 p.m.	53
June 20	-	About 8:00 a.m. Food not observed.	8:51 a.m.	51 appx.
June 21-22	-	(Tern present, study interrupted)		
June 23	3	6:12 a.m.	6:46 a.m.	34

I do not know of any other fresh water pond between mine and Deveaux Bank. There are, however, acres of brackish ponds behind the dunes on nearby Seabrook Island that should support hordes of insects. It may be that during the colony nesting period, hunting pressure near Deveaux Bank forced this Gull-bill to an abnormal distance where there was little or no competition. — B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Wadamalaw Island, S. C., Sept. 17, 1960.*

Least Terns, Inland, and Spotted Sandpipers, Nesting in S. C. — Reports for the 1960 nesting season include two interesting and worthwhile records from Mrs. Ellison D. Smith of Columbia, S. C. These cover the finding, near Columbia, of a small colony of Least Terns, and, more important, the first breeding record of the Spotted Sandpiper in South Carolina. On request, Mrs. Smith has furnished the following account:

"A most interesting discovery was made June 30, 1960, by Robert DesPortes of Columbia. He found a small nesting colony of Least Terns on one of the bald islands, and reported seeing a 'few' nests containing eggs, but no young. On July 14, my husband and I returned to the island with Mr. DesPortes. On this visit we saw the nests with one to three eggs in them, about ten to twelve newly hatched young and several

older ones that ran into cover as we approached the island. On July 31, my husband and son Manning and I returned to count nests. Recent hard rains had obliterated most of the nest depressions, but we counted ten new nests, six with eggs each and four with one each. We found seven young almost ready to fly and thirty-five or forty adults.

"This small island yielded yet another happy discovery when on this same day (July 31) we saw one young shore bird, with a tilting walk, which I tentatively identified as a Spotted Sandpiper. As we left the island about sundown, four adults flew in. The following morning, my son Ellison and I returned and were able to positively identify the birds. We flushed two more young sandpipers able to fly and one not yet flying, but which could swim and dive beautifully, as we discovered when we asked him to pose for a picture."

On invitation, B. R. and E. B. Chamberlain accompanied Mrs. Smith and others of her family on another trip on August 4. We found the low-lying island to be some ten miles west of Columbia, about half a mile off Snelgrove's Landing in Lexington County. It is now under protection of the S. C. Wildlife Commission. Covering less than one acre, the island is composed of red clay and small rocks. The rocky shore-line averages some twenty-five feet wide, with rather heavy knee-high vegetation covering the interior. This cover consists largely of grasses and vines, with a scattering of small shrubs, such as willow and button-wood.

We noted six or eight Black Terns, two or three dozen Least Terns and three or four Spotted Sandpipers as we approached the island. Some half a dozen Least Tern nests were found among the rocks, each containing two eggs. Eight or ten single Tern eggs were found, scattered about the nearby grass, and each with a small hole apparently picked into it. No evidence of mammals was noted on the island and predation was probably due to crows or grackles.

We found two young Spotted Sandpipers, not long awing (they were loath to leave the island, preferring to run around the shoreline or hide in the vegetation), and one youngster still unable to fly. As Mrs. Smith had noted a few days earlier, this young bird readily took to the water when pushed to escape, and was seen to wing-swim a distance of about three feet, moving an inch or two beneath the surface, in shallow water. Thoroughly bedraggled, he then had little choice but to sit for a photograph. A day or two after this visit, and after much searching, Mrs. Smith located a Spotted Sandpiper nest, built under and into the vines and grasses. It held the part-shell of a hatched egg. Nest and egg fragment have been deposited in the Charleston Museum.

These records extend the South Carolina breeding range of the Least Tern some 110 miles inland from the coast, and add the Spotted Sandpiper to our list of breeding species. It is to be pointed out that some earlier writers include South Carolina within the probable breeding range of this sandpiper, apparently solely on the basis of its long-known occurrence in summer. — E. B. CHAMBERLAIN, *Charleston, S. C., Oct. 14, 1960.*

Avocet at Edisto Beach, S. C. — Two recent observations of the American Avocet on the lower South Carolina coast are noteworthy. A single bird was watched at length at Bay Point Park at the southern end of Edisto Beach, Charleston County, S. C., on Sept. 20, 1960 by Harvey Lybrand and again on Sept. 21 by Mr. Lybrand and Mrs. Paul Atwood. The bird was seen at an edge of a small brackish water pond about which the park is established. Mrs. Atwood promptly telephoned the writer to report the find.

On October 7, 1960, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Sprunt Jr., and John H. Dick saw an Avocet at this same location. Since the locations of the two observations are identical and the dates fairly close together, it seems likely that both parties saw the same bird.

Occurrences of the Avocet on the S. C., coast in 1954 and 1957, and on the N. C., coast in 1954, '58, '59 and '60 are recorded in *The Chat*. — B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Wadmalaw Island, S. C., Oct. 12, 1960.*

Barn Owl Hunting During the day.—Unlike the Sorth-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) which commonly hunts over North Carolina marshes during the day, the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) usually hunts at night; therefore the two birds seem to occupy different ecological niches and live in the same general habitat without extensive competition. I was surprised, then, to see a Barn Owl hunting during daylight near the Bodie Island Lighthouse, north of Oregon Inlet in Dare County. My wife and I first sighted the bird about 4:30 p.m. E. S. T. on March 13, 1960 and watched it for about ten minutes as it flew erratically along the shore line of the mud-flat east of the lighthouse. About twenty minutes later we again saw a Barn Owl, presumably the same individual, northwest of the lighthouse, flying over a brushy area. This time I watched the bird carefully for about ten minutes, during which time it dove twice into the bushes. The second time it arose with something in its talons. Thus from its behavior I conclude that this Barn Owl was actually hunting during the daylight, and had not just been accidentally disturbed from its sleeping perch. — JACK P. HAILMAN, 6037 Lake Terrace Circle, Norfolk, Virginia, August 4, 1960.

Olive-sided Flycatcher at High Hampton.—On the week-end of May 13-15, 1960, the Carolina Bird Club held its Spring Meeting at High Hampton, near Cashiers in Jackson County, high in the mountains of western North Carolina. Because of the great distances involved, most of the attendants began their return early on Sunday. Some were not so hurried and the following letter tells of the reward of one such group: "After breakfast we birded until lunch time. From across the lake I heard in the woods on the ridge above the far end of the golf course, an Olive-sided Flycatcher, a call I had not heard since leaving Vermont. Needless to say, the group was excited. We stalked the bird and finally located it in full view on a dead limb of a big oak. We had fifteen minutes of observation and noted the dark olive sides of the breast, the narrow white line through its center, the relatively large head and thick neck, and the white wing tufts. We could see its head jerk backward with every call and the group all recognized the "hip, three cheers" with which it is credited. I believe it was a first identification for all but myself. It behaved as though on its nesting grounds. Miss Margaret Harper, Mrs. M. J. Barber and Dr. James Taylor were with me.—WENDELL P. SMITH, North Wilkesboro, N. C., May 20, 1960.

Tragedy at the Martin Gourds.—Last March (1960) when we moved into *Critter Rest*, our home on Wadmalaw Island on the lower South Carolina coast, I promptly hung four gourds for Purple Martins. As far as I know there had been no Martins on the place before we occupied it. Gourd houses are commonplace in Charleston County, however.

Within 48 hours three Martins were inspecting the gourds and before the week was over I counted ten birds sparring for places in the four rooms I had provided. I was out of gourds so I watched and listened to developments with interest and some disgust.

The friction that marked the initial assembly never lessened and although each gourd soon contained a nest of dead oak leaves and the head of a Martin at each hole, only one—the third from the top—contained eggs by mid-June and that held four. Several birds were in the air regularly and the "unhappy" twittering was incessant.

On the morning of June 19 my attention was drawn to the Martin colony by a strange interrupted buzzing noise. From a window I saw a male Martin repeatedly diving at the second gourd from the top and at each pass emitting the sound I heard. From the hole of that gourd the head and "shoulders" of a female projected. The male was swooping back and forth like a pendulum from a distance of about 25 feet and at each pass missing the female by inches or less. Strangely, the female did not move and I suspected it could not.

I climbed to the gourds and removed the buzzed female. Apparently it had been dead but a short time. The head and "shoulders" that had been exposed were covered and slicked down with a slimy-looking fluid. The eyes were closed and completely sealed over. It seemed to be saliva but it did

not come from the dead bird. Was it sprayed at each passage by the male? There were no external signs of injury and the body appeared to be in good condition. It weighed 58 grams. Unfortunately it was not saved for an autopsy.

Two days after this episode a pair of Great Crested Flycatchers moved into the gourd that held four eggs. The eggs promptly disappeared and so did the Martin colony. Only the Flycatchers have been back, to date.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Wadmalaw Island, S. C., June 24, 1960.*

Brown Creeper Nest at High Hampton.—Attending CBS Spring Field Trip at High Hampton, Jackson County, N. C., on the week-end of May 13-15, 1960, R. H. Rembert of Asheville located a pair of Brown Creepers building a nest on the side of an unoccupied house. The siding of the house was of heavy native White Oak shingles with the bark attached. The particular shingle selected was a very narrow one, perhaps four inches wide, on the south side about mid-way up the second story. There was a gap of an inch or more between it and the adjacent shingles on each side. Examination of identical shingles at lower levels showed that the space between the shingle and the framing, which was covered with builders paper, could hardly have been more than inch wide.

Contrary to most of the literature, both birds participated in the building and in turn entered at the gap at one side and came out of the gap at the other side. The procedure was watched by most of the members attending the field trip. The whiteish material taken in, apparently lining, was not identified.

This Southern, or Appalachian, Brown Creeper (*nigrescens*) was described and named by Burleigh in 1935. The southern limit of its nesting range is in the high mountains of Western North Carolina and Tennessee. The type specimen came from Mt. Mitchell, elevation 6600 ft. The altitude at High Hampton is approximately 3600 ft. As far as we know this is the first nesting record for North Carolina in 25 years or more. — B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Wadmalaw Island, S. C., October 10, 1960.*

Sight Record of a Wheatear in South Carolina. — At about 4:30 on Sunday afternoon, October 1, 1960, while golfing near the sixth hole at the Charleston Country Club, Andrew Simons watched a strange small bird for ten minutes or more, on three occasions. Several times he was within ten or fifteen feet of the bird.

Mr. Simons' observation of the coloring, the distinctive inverted T and rump patch, together with the pumping action, convinced him, after consulting Peterson that he had seen a Wheatear. Having known Mr. Simons for many years I concur in his present identification.

This observation places the Wheatear on the South Carolina Hypothetical List. While it is probable that the individual seen was the Greenland form, such a designation would be guesswork, since *leucorhoa* is said to be indistinguishable in the field from certain European forms.

A sight record in Maine, October 4, 1955, and a collected bird in Florida, November 2, 1955, are recorded in *Audubon Field Notes*, 10:7 and 10:21 respectively.—E. B. CHAMBERLAIN, *Charleston, S. C., October 4, 1960.*

(There is an authentic record of the species from Cuba. C. H. B.)

Rare Kirtland's Warbler at Aiken, S. C. — On the afternoon of October 5, 1960, for approximately one-half hour, between 3:15 and 3:45 p.m., I had the very pleasant experience of observing a Kirtland's Warbler. The period was partly cloudy with temperature at 83° and practically no wind. The habitat is on a dam which is now vegetated with willow, sweetgum and an occasional persimmon 15 to 25 feet tall. Observations ranged in distance from a maximum of 40 feet to a minimum of 8 feet, without glasses at close ranges and with 9x35 binoculars at intermediate distances. As the bird approached me I realized that I was looking at a warbler I had never seen before. The tail wagging habit was much in evidence, as well as the dark streaks along the flanks. The interrupted eye-ring and the black on the gray back were clearly seen in the numerous positions

in which I observed the bird at the shorter distances (8 to 15 feet). The black of the male was distinctly gray in this bird so I assume it was female not yet in fall plumage. Its dark legs were clearly seen and there was no white in the tail. It ranged from about 10 feet up in the trees to 2 feet above the ground, twice dropping to the ground in search of insects.

When I came in from the field I checked with Sprunt and Chamberlain (*South Carolina Bird Life, 1949*) where an up-state observation is recorded for 1925, and, in the appendix, a 1949 observation at Eastover, Richland County. — JOHN B. HATCHER, *Forest Manager, AEC, Aiken, S. C., October 6, 1960.* (Mrs. W. H. Faver, who made the 1949 observation, recorded it again, September 1, 1951 at the same location. *The Chat, 17:33* — *Dept. Ed.*).

Common Redpoll at Aiken, S. C.—On three different occasions, Mar. 1, 3, and 4, we had three Common Redpolls as visitors this winter (1960). There were two males and one female that came in morning and afternoon, alighting first in a water oak, then descending to the ground where there were four feeders placed with birdloaf and cracked corn, sunflower seed and wild bird mix. These visits were in the yard of C. M. Heady on the eastern edge of Aiken, a bushier open habitat than exists in most of the town. The visitors were between the stables and the house, where some horse feed is occasionally spilled. These birds were associated with White-throated Sparrows and House Sparrows which are quite common around the stables. The weather was more than usually cold and disagreeable. Minimum temperatures ranged from 22° to 35° and maximums mostly in the high 30's to mid-40's. During this period there was one of the infrequent freezing rains for this area; the only others of record being in 1958 and 1914.—JOHN B. HATCHER, *Forest Manager, Atomic Energy Commission, Aiken, S. C., May 20, 1960.*

Lark Sparrow Again at Edisto Beach, S. C.—The June 1957 *Chat* 21:47 carries E. B. Chamberlain's account of six recorded appearances of the Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) in South Carolina, up to and including the collection, September 7, 1956 of a specimen for the Charleston Museum found by Mrs. Paul Atwood in her yard on Edisto Beach, Charleston County, S. C.

On October 7, 1960 Mrs. Atwood again found a Lark Sparrow in her yard at Edisto Beach. Apparently it then moved out of the immediate vicinity but it was back again on October 11 and was present on the 13th., when it was studied leisurely by a group including Mr. and Mrs. Fred May and the B. R. Chamberlains. The bird was in excellent plumage. The facial markings, Mrs. Atwood said, seemed much more distinct than did those of the one she found in 1956. The bird perched for several minutes on a small dead limb and then dropped down and bathed in a bird bath directly on the ground at a paced distance of 66 feet from the observers who watched in turn through a 19.5 B&L scope. — B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Wadmalaw Island, S. C., October 14, 1960.*

TV Tower Casualties at a Charlotte Station. — The following is a tabulation of recoveries and observations at the base of the WSOC 1000 ft., TV tower located at the northeastern edge of Charlotte, early in October, 1960.

Notes—

Weather: Sept. 28-29 and 29-30, rain and fog; Oct. 1-2, fog, low ceiling; Oct. 7-8, rain, 500 ft., less ceiling; Oct. 8-9, rain, 900 ft., less ceiling.

Three additional visits made, Oct. 3, 6, and 7, with no kill noted although conditions appeared favorable.

Add 20 percent to kill of Oct. 7-8 and 8-9 for brushy areas not searched. Areas thoroughly canvassed on Oct. 2 and 20 percent of the total was found in brushy areas.

Thrushes heard flying over our home on the nights of Oct. 7 and 8; thrush kill found both following mornings at tower.

No bands were found.

Kill of Oct. 1-2 apparently accumulative from Sept. 28-29 as freshness of birds varied. Definitely a heavy thrush flight on the night of Oct. 1-2 as birds found on the 2nd., were all fresh.

The following injured but living birds noted, Oct. 1-2: Catbird, 1; Swainson's Thrush, 1; Yellowthroat, 1-F; Vireo, sp, 2; Hiding in grass, unidentified, 1.

	Total	October			Remarks
		1-2	7-8	8-9	
Pied-billed Grebe	2	2	—	—	Winter plumage
Green Heron	1	1	—	—	
Sora	2	2	—	—	
House Wren	1	1	—	—	
Catbird	39	33	4	2	Much variation noted in size of individuals
Wood Thrush	37	34	3	—	All very fat
Swainson's Thrush	83	71	9	3	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	11	11	—	—	
Veery	2	2	—	—	
Thrush (sp)	15	15	—	—	Either Swainson's or Gray-cheeked
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	1	—	—	
White-eyed Vireo	1	—	1	—	
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	—	1	—	Large, size of small summer tanager
Red-eyed Vireo	37	33	3	1	
Philadelphia Vireo	2	2	—	—	
Vireo (sp)	8	8	—	—	Probably Red-eyed but some could have been Philadelphia or other
Black-and-white Warbler	12	12	—	—	
Parula Warbler	1	1	—	—	
Magnolia Warbler	13	11	2	—	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	8	1(M)	7	—	Oct. 7-8: 6 F or Imm., 1 M
Blackburnian Warbler	1	1	—	—	Fairly high plumage
Chestnut-sided Warbler	4	3	1	—	
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	1	—	—	
Pine Warbler	1	1	—	—	
Ovenbird	17	13	4	—	
Northern Waterthrush	1	1	—	—	
Yellowthroat	9	8	1	—	
Yellow-breasted Chat	4	3	—	1	
Hooded Warbler	1	1	—	—	
American Redstart	6	4	2	—	1 M, high plumage, Oct. 7-8
Warbler (sp)	10	9	1	—	
Scarlet Tanager	5	5	—	—	1 M, high winter plumage
Cardinal	1	1	—	—	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3	2(M)	—	1(F)	
Indigo Bunting	11	10	1	—	All either F or Imm.
Unidentified Birds	38	37	1	—	Remains too far gone or too little for identification
TOTAL	390	341	41	8	

—THE JOSEPH R. NORWOODS, Charlotte, N. C. Oct. 10, 1960.

Briefs for the Files.

Common Loon, 1, May 8 at Wilmington, Maurice Barnhill. • Red-necked Grebe, 1 present at Raven Knob Camp, Watauga Co., N. C., June 8-15, Wendell P. Smith. • Pied-billed Grebe, 1 nest, 6 eggs; 1 nest, 5 eggs, Apr. 15, Magnolia Gardens, Charleston, Ernest Cutts. • White-tailed Tropic-bird, 1, 120 miles off N. C., coast, Aug. 24, on the water and awing, R. H. Coleman. • Gannet, 1 imm., late at Mt. Caswell, Wilmington, May 8, Maurice Barnhill. • Magnificent Frigatebird, 1 female over Rich's Inlet, Wilmington, June 4, Maurice Barnhill; 1 over Edgewater Park, Charleston, 10:20 a.m., July 29, Ernest Cutts. • Least Bittern, 1 nest, 4 eggs, May 1, Charleston, several nests later, Ernest Cutts. • Wood Ibis, commonplace in lower Charleston County into October; 1 near Nags Head, N. C., perched and aloft, Sept. 3, James E. Ames, Jr., & party; 1 near Wilmington, Aug. 13, Mrs. Earle and Mrs. Mebane; about 60 near

Santee delta, S. C., June 29, Maurice Barnhill & Greg Massey. • Whistling Swan, 6 present, Apr. 8 at Mattamuskeet, Curtis T. Wilson. • Canada Goose, 1 at Eastover, S. C., May 16, Mrs. W. H. Faver. • Wood Duck, 7 young following an adult in the canal at Mattamuskeet, May 6, C. T. Wilson. • Ruddy Duck, nested again at Bull's Island, S. C., broods of 4, 5, and 7 following females were watched at close range, July 11, B. R. & E. B. Chamberlain and John K. Terres. • Osprey, nest and 3 eggs, Apr. 19, Charleston County, Ernest Cutts. • Sparrow Hawk, 2 imm., and 2 adults at shipyard, Wilmington, June 28, Mrs. Earle & Mrs. Mebane. • Virginia Rail, 1 adult, 2 imm., on Wrightsville causeway, Wilmington, June 28, Maurice Barnhill. • Black Rail, 1 captured Apr. 22 at Castle Hayne, N. C., John M. Irvine, Jr.; 1 seen at Orton's Plantation, Apr. 23; 1 flushed at Bodie Island, N. C., July 12, Frederic R. Scott. • Am. Woodcock, 1, Apr. 30, Henderson, N. C., Mrs. A. W. Bachman. • Upland Plover, 4 near airport at North Wilkesboro, N. C., Apr. 7, Wendell P. Smith. • Spotted Sandpiper, at Wilmington as late as May 21, Greg Massey. • Pectoral Sandpiper, 20, Apr. 15; 30, Apr. 17; 32, Apr. 23; 2 still present, May 14, John Irvine, Jr. • White-rumped Sandpiper, several at Rantowle's Pond near Charleston, May 13, R. M. Coleman; 10 at same pond, June 5, Francis M. Weston; 15 on June 9, Weston and Alexander Sprunt Jr., and 10, June 10, Weston, at same site. • Marbled Godwit, 2 at Mt. Pleasant, Oct. 15, Mrs. A. W. Bachman and party. • Black-necked Stilt, 1 near Charleston, Apr. 25 and May 8, The R. H. Colemans, Sr., and Jr.; 2 nests with 4 eggs each and 1, contents undetermined, 6½ mi., north of Oregon Inlet, N. C., with 15 birds counted in vicinity, June 4, James E. Ames, Jr. • Skua, sight record of 1 on water and awing near the Frying Pan Lightship, about 25 mi., SE of Southport, Aug. 1, Eugene Pond, *vide* H. T. Davis. • Great Black-backed Gull, apparently summered in small numbers at Oregon Inlet, 1 adult, July 12 Frederick R. Scott, and 1 adult and 2 imm., July 16, Paul W. Sykes, Jr. • Bonaparte's Gull, 12, New Topsail Beach, N. C., Apr. 1-3, Hallam Walker; 63 counted at Wilmington, Mar. 27, John Irvine, Jr.; 15 at Salem Lake, Winston-Salem, Apr. 12, The John R. Gatewoods; some at Wilmington as late as Apr. 23, Mrs. Appleberry and John Irvine. • Common Tern, nestling found with partly swallowed adult Six-lined Race Runner at Cape Lookout, June 25, H. T. Davis. • Black Tern, few near Southport, May 21, Mrs. A. W. Bachman; 6 at Kerr Lake near Henderson, N. C., Aug. 21, also by Mrs. Bachman; 1 at Catawba River, Charlotte, Sept. 4, Lee Jones and Julian Meadows, *vide* J. R. Norwood. • Barn Owl, nest in an oak in Salisbury church yard, at least 3 young, adult size, July 31, nested in same place last summer, The J. R. Norwoods. • Chuch-will's-widow, as late as Oct. 7, Wadmalaw Island, S. C., B. R. Chamberlain. • Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 1 Green Park Inn, Blowing Rock, N. C., Oct. 1, The Edwin Clarksons. • Western Kingbird, 1 at North Wilkesboro, Aug. 15, the first noted there, Wendell P. Smith. • Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 at feeder at Henderson, Dec. 31 through Apr. 14, Mrs. A. W. Bachman. • Swainson's Warbler, 2 singing, Apr. 16 and 3 singing, May 1, in different parts of Jasper County, S. C., Brooke Meanly and E. O. Mellinger. • Am. Redstart, 2 males, 1 female at Orton's (Wilmington), "around the middle of June", Mrs. Anne Ellis. • Bobolink, nested again near North Wilkesboro, female and 4 young seen June 3, Wendell Smith. • Baltimore Oriole, 13 banded at Hillsboro between Aug. 29 and Sept. 4, Charles H. Blake. • Scarlet Tanager, 1 singing male, Wilmington, Apr. 15, Greg Massey; 1 just east of Morehead City, Apr. 24, Mrs. A. W. Bachman and Mrs. Fred Conderman. • Painted Bunting, 1 male, Oct. 10, Mt. Pleasant, S. C., Mrs. A. W. Bachman. • Seaside Sparrow, nest and 4 eggs, May 17, young, May 22, Charleston County, Earnest Cutts. • Slate-colored Junco, remained through Apr. 16, Charlotte, The J. R. Norwoods. • White-crowned Sparrow, 1, Charlotte, Apr. 30, Mrs. E. O. Clarkson; some at Winston-Salem, Mar. 13, T. W. Simpson, MD.

All dates 1960.

have been taken, locations and dates are given in some cases and omitted in others. These variations and omissions are of minor importance. In fact, they challenge the owner to round out the notes with details applicable to his own area. Because of the great similarity in distribution of Georgia and Carolina birds, this little Check List should appeal to birders of the Carolinas as well as to those of Georgia.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Wadmalaw Island, S. C., October 5, 1960.*

In the Land of the Quetzal Feather. Frederick Morton, the Devin-Adair Co., 23 E. 26th St., New York 10, N. Y. 208 pages, generously illustrated with pen and ink sketches by Fritz Berger. \$4.50.

The author of this thrill-packed volume, is a German explorer-naturalist and one-time manager of a coffee plantation in Guatemala, ancient land of the Mayans.

It is divided into five chapters: Snakes; Animals, Insects, Fish; Murderous Volcanoes; Love and Hate in the Tropics; and Tropical Plants and the Finquero's (plantation owner or administrator) Epilogue.

Each Chapter is a series of accounts or vignettes, many totally unrelated to the other, but the whole, nonetheless, constitutes a chain of terrific descriptions of the wild savagery with which nature stands its ground against man's presence.

It is a tale of the white man's attempt to survive the jungle with its endless poisonous snakes and scorpions, carnivorous ants, malaria and other tropical diseases; steaming temperatures; the stone-age Indians, still using poisoned arrows of their own devising—and, maintaining one's own mental balance must be perhaps the greatest trial.

Tremendously absorbing as it is, even of a hair-raising, skin-crawling order, *In the Land of the Quetzal Feather* will top the best detective story, please the armchair traveller and the naturalist, and teach any reader something about a country on our own continent little known today.—*Kay Sisson.*

EDITORIAL NOTES

The editor takes this opportunity to welcome and extend best wishes to his successor, Dr. David W. Johnston, of the Zoology Department at Wake Forest College. Dr. Johnston did an excellent job as editor of *The Oriole* for the Georgia Ornithological Society. The members of the CBC are urged to keep a steady flow of manuscript for leading articles headed toward the new editor.

This is also the time to remind the members of the debt they owe to the department editors, Mrs. W. H. Faver, Sr., for Backyard Birding, and Mr. B. Rhett Chamberlain, for General Field Notes. The retiring editor thanks them most heartily for their competent assistance. They, also, need a constant flow of material.

Using 'rookery' in a caption in the previous number for a place where pelicans breed tempted the editor into an excursion among similar words. Obviously rookery is a place used by rooks for nesting or roosting. One

can also find heronry, gullery, hennery, and ternery. Gannetry is probably in print somewhere. Fortunately the temptation was withstood to bedevil the innocent reader with pelicannery.

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Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, chiefly in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

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Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	\$1.00	Contributing	\$25.00
Supporting	\$5.00	Affiliated Club	\$2.00
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All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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Volume 25 Number 1

MARCH, 1961



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Cover Photo—Eastern Phoebe at nest. Photographed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Matt L. Thompson, Chapel Hill, N. C., by Jack Dermid.

The Chat

EDITORIAL

It is a distinct honor and privilege for me to be named Editor of The Chat. As I face this new opportunity of service, I am fully aware of its problems, difficulties, and enjoyable aspects. Through the years the quality of articles published in the journal has been maintained at a high level due to the fine editors and contributors, and it will be the firm resolution of the present Editor to maintain a reputable journal.

Someone once stated that an Editor's job is a thankless one. This can be true, simply because a conscientious Editor finds himself caught in the middle of a struggle between author (and article) and the constituency. If shoddy material of poor quality finds its way into print, the constituency rightly complains; if the Editor is firm and resolute in his insistence for material of good quality, properly written, and clearly expressed he is likely to come under fire from the author. In my correspondence and conversations with the officers and members of Carolina Bird Club, it is my impression that the latter course of action should be pursued diligently.

It seems to me that we have a responsibility to ourselves, to our Age, and to science in general to learn as much as humanly possible about birds and to disseminate this knowledge. How can we afford to be anything but dead serious about our pursuits in these days of modern living and competition? Let us recall the statement published on the inside cover that we, as a Club and as individuals, are "devoted" to the "publication of scientific and popular information" on birds.

It is my hope, then, that the material published in The Chat will continue to reflect the excellent ornithological observations and studies effected in the Carolinas. To this end, it seems desirable to make some statements of policy. The journal must be standardized with respect to nomenclature for which we should use as our guide The A. O. U. Check-list of North American Birds. For abbreviations, scientific expressions, and format, this Editor would like to use the new Style Manual for Biological Journals published by the American Institute of Biological Sciences.

Both Mrs. Faver and Rhett Chamberlain have graciously consented to continue editing their respective departments. Contributors are urged to continue supplying them with the appropriate material. Major articles, book reviews, news announcements, and other publishable items should be sent directly to the Editor.

Let us anticipate the future of ornithology in the Carolinas with the same eager spirit and quest for knowledge as did Bartram, Wilson, Arthur Wayne, the Brimleys, and a host of others.—D. W. J.

March, 1961

CHRISTMAS COUNT—1960

BY B. R. CHAMBERLAIN

In summarizing the Christmas count of 1959 (erroneously captioned 1958), we referred to the Greensboro blackbird roost, estimated at 800,000 birds, as "enormous." In view of the estimate for Greensboro and Clemson, in the present count, that figure was a modest one. Combined, Greensboro and Clemson place their present estimate at a bit over five million. The species count in 1960 is 176, just one short of the 1959 figure. There were 212 observers in 74 parties. Comments are given with the individual accounts. As usual, the table carries the locations arranged approximately in their order of elevation.

Because of the time-consuming job of tabulating and typing all of the reports sent to us, this summary was closed on the afternoon of January 16. Reports reaching me after this date have been marked with an asterisk (*), and their individual figures have been omitted from the table.

Aiken, S. C. (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Aiken Training Track; swamps and ponds 50%, fields and pastures 20%, mixed woods 15%, pine woods 15%).—Dec. 29; 6 AM to 6 PM. Overcast; temp. 32°-54°; wind, E. 2 mph. Three observers in 1 party. Total party-hours, 12 (11 on foot, 1 by car); total party-miles, 56 (16 on foot, 40 by car). **Total species, 67; total individuals, 13,953.** (Seen in area during count period but not on count day: Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Oldsquaw, Hooded Merganser, Marsh Hawk, Sora, Common Gallinule, Ring-billed Gull, Chipping Sparrow). Starlings and blackbirds numbered almost 90% of the individuals counted. Of the 35 Rufous-sided Towhees seen, five had white eyes. The Bachman's Sparrow (JBH) was a good find.—John B. Hatcher, William Post, Jr., (compiler), Thomas M. Rial.

Anderson, S. C. (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at the Tedards' home site, 5 miles north of Anderson—the town excluded in this count; open fields and pasture 40%, pine woods 25%, deciduous woods 15%, creek bottom and cut over swamp 15%, farm pond 5%).—Dec. 31; hours not given; temp. 31°-54°; partly cloudy; wind, W, 8 to 10 mph. One observer. **Total species, 46, total individuals, 5675.** This count is included because it represents an area in Piedmont South Carolina not previously covered. Considering the weather, it seems to be a fair count for a single observer. No Bluebird was found.—Adair (Mrs. R. C.) Tedards.

Central Beaufort County, N. C. (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle centering where Upper Goose Creek enters Pamlico River, including both sides of the river from Bath to Washington; river and river shore 35%, fields 30%, mixed woods 25%, pine woods 5%, feeders 5%).—Dec. 30; 7:15 AM to 5:15 PM. Cloudy all day; temp. 41°-46°; wind SW, 0-20 mph. Three observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 14 (6 on foot, 8 by car); total party-miles, 152 (6 on foot, 146 by car). **Total species, 72; total individuals, about 10,629.** (Seen in area during the period but not on count day: Cattle Egret, Pintail, Common Merganser, Bald Eagle, Winter Wren, Cedar Waxwing, Baltimore Oriole). The compiler noted that the individual count was below normal, as expected, because all land birds have been far more scarce than usual since hurricane Donna (Sept. 12, 1960). The Indigo Bunting, a female, appeared at a feeder in mid-December and was present on the day of the count.—Elizabeth Ball (compiler), Geraldine Cox, Mary McLaurin.

***Chapel Hill, N. C.** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at intersection of Columbia and Franklin Streets, including town of Chapel Hill and University campus, Carrboro, Airport, Eastwood and University Lakes, Glen Lennox Lake Park area and Hope Creek Swamp, Finley Golf Course and Mason Farm; mixed deciduous woodlands 25%, open fields, farmlands 30%, pond, lake shores, creek banks 25%, pinewoods 5%, wooded residential areas 15%).—Jan. 2; 5 AM—5:30 PM. Clear, wind E, 2-3 mph.

Total party-hours, 84½ (division missing); total party-miles 126½, (34½ on foot, 92 in car). Twenty-two observers in 7 parties. **Total species, 72; total individuals, 2948.** Last winter's species count was 67. Last Christmas, 83 Bluebirds were found. The present count was but 37. Also of interest in the present count: 12 Common Mergansers; 1 Yellow-breasted Chat; 7 Baltimore Orioles, and 1 White-crowned Sparrow.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Blake, E. A. Dillard, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Harper, Mr. and Mrs. Logan Irvin, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald R. MacCarthy, J. P. Moore, Mrs. Wallace Patterson, L. A. Ripperton, Wiley B. Sanders (compiler), Mrs. W. B. Sanders, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Sharpe, Mrs. Claudia Simmons, Mr. and Mrs. Matt Thompson, Mrs. Adelaide Walters, Mrs. Fred Weedon, Frances Yocom.

Charleston, S. C. (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, centering as in previous years).—Dec. 31; 7 AM to 5 PM. Overcast, temp, 44°-58°; wind ENE, 10-15 mph. Twenty-one observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 51½ (39½ on foot, 11 in car, 1 in boat); total party-miles, 173 (27½ on foot, 141½ by car, 4 by boat). **Total species, 141; total individuals, 16,147.** The Blue and Snow geese are unusual; seen on Bull's Island. The relatively high count of Tree Swallows was made over open water in Mayrant's Swamp. Accidentals on this count were a Gray-cheeked Thrush and a Northern Waterthrush, both observed by Ernest Cutts on Bull's Island. Of the 148 scaup tabulated, only 8 were Greater Scaup. This is Charleston's highest species count since the winter of 1949-50, when the figure was 145.—Roy Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Barrington, B. R. Chamberlain, E. B. Chamberlain (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Coleman, E. A. Cutts, John H. Dick, R. D. Edwards, R. L. Edwards, John Horlbeck, Mrs. John G. Leland, Peter Manigault, I. S. H. Metcalf, Mrs. M. D. Richardson, Newton Seebeck, Miss Elizabeth Simons, G. R. Thurow, A. M. Wilcox, E. A. Williams.

Charlotte, N. C. (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, centering at intersection of 7th. Street and Briar Creek as in past 18 years. Habitat is being radically changed by residential and industrial building. Deciduous and pine woods and edge 45%, open field 33%, streams and ponds 16%, city yards 6%).—Dec. 31; 7 AM to 5 PM. Heavy ground fog in morning, clearing by noon, cloudy and rain in late afternoon; temp. 31°-53°; wind ENE, 5-10 mph.; ground bare, water open. Fifteen observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 25 (15 on foot, 10 by car); total party-miles, 191 (17 on foot, 174 by car). **Total species, 59; total individuals, 5962.** (Seen in area during count period but not on count day: Mallard, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Barred Owl, Baltimore Oriole). This is the highest species count of any winter since the area has been censused, in spite of the absence of any grebe or duck. The Bluebird count of 44 was a good improvement over last year's figure. The Fox Sparrow count was 74, a surprising concentration.—John Anderson, William Anderson, Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson, Mrs. W. G. Cobey, Lee Jones, Julian Meadows, Lee Miller, Joseph R. Norwood (compiler), Mrs. Joseph R. Norwood, Mr. and Mrs. Shuford K. Peeler, Frank Ramsey, Carol Reagin, William M. Smith, John Trott. (*Cardinal Bird Club, Mecklenburg Audubon Club, guests.*)

Clemson, S. C. (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, centering at Southern Railroad station in Clemson. Open farmland 29%, deciduous woodland 4%, pine woodland 10%, mixed woodland 44%, towns 6%, water, including Hartwell Dam area 7%).—Jan. 2; 5:40 AM to 6:20 PM. Clear; temp. 33°-54°; wind SW, 0-15 mph.; water open, ground clear. Six observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 29½ (18 on foot, 11½ by car); total party-miles, 264 (15 on foot, 249 by car). **Total species, 75; total individuals, about 5,504,300.**

(Seen in area in count period but not on count day: Am. Coot). Starlings and blackbirds were estimated to total 5½ million. Unusuals: Canvasback (GG and party); 2 Long-billed Marsh Wrens (JHH, RDS); Solitary Vireo (RHP). Extremely rare: Bachman's Sparrow (RHP), 8 Tree Sparrows (RHP). The Tree Sparrow is still on the S. C. Hypothetical List. The ob-

server had previous experience with the species in eastern and western Virginia,—Mrs. Oris Frazee, Mr. and Mrs. Gaston Gage, J. H. Hobson, R. H. Peake, Jr. (compiler), R. D. Shipman.

Columbia, S. C. (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, centering at the State Capitol; same as last year except omit Woodberry Road, Lexington County. Deciduous river and creek swamps 30%, pine woods 15%, open fields 40%, lake shores 5%, urban 10%).—Dec. 26: 7 AM to 5:30 PM. Clear; temp. 26°-62°; wind SE, 10 mph. Seven observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 26 (22 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 132 (22 on foot, 110 by car). **Total species, 69; total individuals, about 20,689.** (Seen in area in count period but not on count day, a **Western Tanager**). Redwinged Blackbirds were estimated at 14,227. The 2 Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (Mrs. Sisson) were unusual finds.—Gilbert J. Bristow (compiler), Gordon Brown, Mrs. Charles Prather, Mrs. Clyde Sisson, Mrs. Vivian Smith, Mrs. Adair Tedards, Miss Ebba Van (The Columbia Bird Club).

Eastover, S. C. (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Eastover as in former years; cultivated fields 33%, pasture 33%, deciduous and pine woods 14%, swampy areas around ponds 10%, residential, 10%).—Dec. 30; 6 AM to 5 PM. Occasional rain to clearing about noon; temp. 44°-58°; wind SW, 5 mph. Three observers in 1 party. Total party-hours, 8; total party-miles, 25 (1 on foot, 24 by car). **Total species, 59; total individuals, 1298.** One Dickcissel was watched at very close range (VS and ARF); two others were seen. No Bluebirds and no Hermit Thrushes were found. Three White-crowned Sparrows were watched, Jan. 7 (ARF).—Mrs. Clyde Sisson, Mrs. Vivian Smith, Mrs. Annie R. Faver (compiler).

Elkin, N. C. (area as in prior years, Elkin, Ronda, and Klondike—except, Dr. Beale's farm of 90% pasture and cleared land added).—Dec. 26; 8 AM to 5 PM. Fair in AM, cloudy later; temp. 20°-48°; wind W, light. Ten observers. Party data not given. **Total species, 54; total individuals, 2283.** The count of five Red-tailed Hawks is noteworthy since counts during the past ten years have not shown more than two. Slate-colored Juncos, never below 100 in the past ten years, were down to 55.—Tom Bryan, Harold Click, Gary Dornburg, Jeff Earp, Linville Hendren (compiler), Tom Hendren, E. M. Hodel, Freddie Mastin, Bill Roth, Wendell P. Smith.

Great Smoky Mts. National Park, Tenn.-N. C. (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center near Crib Gap, approximately 3 miles east of Cades Cove, with Abrams Falls at western limit and Blanket Mountain at eastern limit; open farm land 15%; old fields 20%; forests 35%; roadsides 20%; stream courses and 60-acre reservoir 10%).—Jan. 1; 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM. Partly cloudy; temp. 35°-47°; wind variable, light; ground bare in lowlands, snow-covered at higher altitudes. Thirty-three observers in 11 parties. Total party-hours, 89 (71 on foot, 18 by car); total party-miles, 210 (76 on foot, 134 by car). **Total species, 63; total individuals, 2893.** The total chickadee count of 148 includes the Black-capped and the Carolina chickadees. The Eastern Bluebird count was 27. Last year the count was 54. Three Common Ravens were seen. There was none on last winter's count.—Jessie Dempster, Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Dunbar, John Elson, Mary Enloe, W. F. Gallagher, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Garlinghouse, Quincy A. Gorman, David B. Highbaugh, James Hill, Dr. Joseph C. Howell, Wayne M. Lamb, Charles W. Loveday, Richard Martin, William T. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Monroe, Mrs. E. E. Overton, Paul S. Pardue, Richard W. Russell, Mr. and Mrs. Louis F. Smith, Jr., Arthur Stupka (compiler), Mrs. Arthur Stupka, Mrs. Thomas C. Swindell, David Tanner, Dr. James T. Tanner, Dr. and Mrs. Samuel R. Tipton, James A. Wardley, Mr. and Mrs. George R. Wood (*Tennessee Ornithological Society, National Park Service, and guests*).

Greensboro, N. C. (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle center ½ mile SW of WBIG transmitter, as in 1959; deciduous and pine woods 25%, thickets 15%, fresh-water lakes and ponds 30%; open fields 15%, marsh and wooded swamps 10%, lawns and parks 5%).—Dec. 31; 7 AM to 6:30 PM. Fog until 9 AM, overcast to 11:30, partly cloudy all afternoon. Thirty-two observers in 12 parties. Total party-hours, 92 (55 on foot, 37

by car); total party-miles, 274¼ (42¼ on foot, 232 by car). **Total species, 76; total individuals, 2,012,776.** The species count is 5 above that of last year and 3 under the 1958 count. The huge blackbird roost which had doubled in size last winter over the previous winter, has again doubled in estimated numbers. It is interesting to compare the per cent increase in this year's count over that of last year, by species: Rusty Blackbird, 141%; Common Grackle, 70%; Brown-headed Cowbird, 25%. The Starling count was up this year by 70%. Probably the outstanding feature of the count was the near absence of Eastern Bluebirds. Only four were found. Last winter the number was 84, and in the preceding count, a bountiful 357.—Mrs. J. Brown, Mrs. A. Cannon, Inez Colwell, Mrs. F. H. Craft, Larry Crawford, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Daniels, Brad Hawkins (compiler), Mrs. James T. Heilig, Mrs. W. S. Holmes, Bruce Kappel, Richard Knox, Robert Lasley, James Mattocks, Mrs. R. E. McCoy, Ethel McNairy, Ida Mitchell, C. H. Moody, Elizabeth Ogburn, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Perrett, Dr. and Mrs. C. I. Reid, Etta Schiffman, George A. Smtih, Mrs. W. F. Smyre, Mrs. Paul Stam, Thomas E. Street, Mrs. C. R. Surrent, Mrs. C. M. Swart, Mrs. Margaret Wall, Mrs. R. H. Weisner (*Piedmont Bird Club*).

Hampstead, Pender Co., N. C. (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, centering on edge of the Inland Waterway, 1 mile SSE of Hampstead. The same area covered last year).—Dec. 31; 6 AM to 5:30 PM. Clear to cloudy; temp. 33°-56°; wind NE, 10-15 mph. Ground bare, water open, ocean moderately calm. Six observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 21 (9 on foot, 12 by car); total party-miles, 219 (4 on foot, 215 by car). **Total species, 113; total individuals, about 8645.** Three Snow Geese (MB, GM) and 1 Blue Goose (MB, GM) were unusual. The species count was one more than last year's.—Mrs. Catherine Alexander, Maurice Barnhill, III (compiler), Mrs. Dot. Earle, John M. Irvine, Jr., Greg Massey, Mrs. Mary Urich.

Henderson, N. C. (Practically same area as in former counts; woodlands 40%, roadside and open fields 40%, lake 15%, yards 5%).—Dec. 28; 8 AM to 4:30 PM. Fair with some wind in AM; temp. 26°-40°. Eight observers in 4 parties. Sixty-three miles by car; 11 miles on foot. Other data missing. **Total species, 52; total individuals, 1524.** (Seen in the area in count period but not on the count day, 1 Brown Creeper.) The count of individuals was surprisingly low. No Red-breasted Nuthatches were found. Five Baltimore Orioles, 3 at one feeder, were very unusual.—Mrs. A. W. Bachman (compiler), Miss Annie Gray Burroughs, Mrs. W. B. Daniel, Miss Mariel Gary, Miss May Hunter, Miss Garnette Myers, Mrs. G. E. Rose, E. L. Waddill.

Jefferson, N. C. (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Todd)—Dec. 31; 7 AM to 4 PM. Overcast; temp. 17°-33°; no wind. Thirteen observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 26 (11 on foot, 15 by car and jeep); total party-miles, 74 (13 on foot, 36 by car, 25 by jeep). **Total species, 30; total individuals, about 1261.** Seen in area during count period but not count day: Mallard, 12. The chickadee count includes 4 Black-capped Chickadees. The Starling count rose from 10 last year to about 600 this year, whereas the Bluebirds dropped from 18 to 1.—Betty Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Phil Eckman, Mrs. A. Burman Hurt (compiler), Alice Lyall, Gordon McWilliams, Charles Miller, Clyde Miller, James Miller, Richard Miller, J. Frank Randall, David Risk, Michael Welch.

New London, Stanley Co., N. C. (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 2 miles NW of Badin; including High Rock Lake, Yadkin River, Badin Lake, Morrow Mtn., State Park, City reservoir, Albemarle, New London; mixed deciduous woodland 25%, open fields and farmlands 27%, freshwater ponds and lakeshores 25%, lakes and river 15%, marsh 3%, pine woods 2%, town suburbs 3%).—Dec. 30; 6 AM to 7 PM. Fog with drizzle until 9 AM, then fair; temp. 38°-55°; wind SW, 3-5 mph. Seventeen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 30 (15 on foot, 15 by car); total party-miles, 333½ (12½ on foot, 321 by car). **Total species, 63; total individuals, 2548.** (Last year's count: 70 and 4436). The decrease in numbers of individuals was fairly evenly spread. Only 22 Eastern Bluebirds were

found. There were 88 last winter. "Insecticides and the severe winter" were believed to be contributors to the low counts.—Miss Mildred Beaucom, Mrs. Barrett Crook, C. M. Haithcock, Miss Barbara Hatley, Mrs. Myron Isenhour, Sr., Donald Maner, Mrs. James Mauney, Leonore Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Norwood, Sue Trott Parker, Mrs. J. E. Pennington, Wayne Smith, John Trott (compiler), Miss Jane L. Turner, Mrs. John Whitlock, Miss Bennie Wingate.

Raleigh, N. C. (Practically the same area as previous counts: lakes and small ponds 25%, mixed pine and deciduous woodlands 40%, deciduous woodlands 20%, open fields 15%).—Dec. 28; 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM. Partly cloudy in early AM, clearing and cold rest of day; temp. 28°-40°; wind 4-5 mph. Ground bare, ice around edge of small streams and ponds. Fourteen observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 48 (40 on foot, 8 by car); total party-miles, 65 (20 on foot, 45 by car). **Total species, 63; total individuals, 4002.** Twelve Baltimore Orioles seems to be a record high for any area in the Carolinas. The species count is 1 over last year's count.—Miss Gladys Baker, Philip Davis, J. F. Green, R. J. Hader, J. W. Johnson, Steven Johnson, Mrs. John L. Lamson, W. M. Palmer, Roy Parker, Mrs. John Rhodes, David L. Wray (compiler), Mrs. D. L. Wray.

***Rocky Mount, N. C.** (all points within 15-mile diameter circle, center north of Rocky Mount as in past several years).—Dec. 26; 7 AM-5 PM. Clear, temp. 30°-50°; wind, slight. One observer. Total miles, 93 (1 on foot, 92 by car). **Total species, 46; total individuals, 3068.** This is a considerable drop below the 58 and 4296 figures of last Christmas. There were 6 Baltimore Orioles in the present count. Last year there were but 2.—J. W. E. (Bill) Joyner (compiler).

Spartanburg, S. C. (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center in Spartanburg, including Zimmerman, Pierce and Johnson lakes and sewage disposal plant; open farmlands 15%, town suburbs 20%, freshwater lakes, ponds and marshes 45%, mixed woodlands 20%).—Jan. 2, 8 AM to 5:30 PM. Clear, temp. 45°-51°; wind SW 4-15 mph. Seven observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 16 (10 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles, 60 (8 on foot, 52 by car). **Total species, 57; total individuals, 873.** An Oldsquaw, first observed on Pierce's Pond (JOW) Dec. 28, was seen daily and was still present on Jan. 4. This was a first record for the area.—Louisa B. Carlisle, Ruth Crick (compiler), Paul Crosby, Margaret Hammond, Mrs. Louise Spivey, John O. Watkins, MD.

Wilmington, N. C. (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle centered at Myrtle Grove Junction as in past years. Pleasant Grove Plantation and dykes not included in this count).—Dec. 29; 4 AM to 6:10 PM. Mostly cloudy all day; temp. 40°-56°; wind NW, 6 mph. Total party-hours, 63¾ (25 on foot, 39¾ by car); total party-miles, 509 (23 on foot, 486 by car). Thirteen observers in 6 parties. **Total species, 138; total individuals, 21,422.** (Seen in area during count period but not on count day: Little Blue Heron, Greater Scaup, Black Vulture, King Rail, Barn Owl, Horned Lark, Baltimore Oriole). Both species and individual counts were well below last year's figures due to some extent to overcast skies and failure to reach the dykes. Outstanding finds: a female or immature **Common Eider** (Mrs. C. A., RPH) was studied for 30 minutes or more near a bridge at ranges as close as thirty feet; **Eight Knots** were seen on Carolina Beach (MB, GM); **two Common Terns** were reported at Wrightsville Beach (JMI Sr.). Last year the Red-winged Blackbird count was 29,797. This year only 6657 were found.—Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Appleberry, Mrs. Roxanna Atwood, Maurice Barnhill, Mrs. Dot Earle, Robert P. Holmes, III, MD., John M. Irvine, Sr., John M. Irvine, Jr., Harry Latimer, Greg Massey (compiler), Mrs. Polly Mebane, Mrs. Mary Ulrich, Mrs. Marie Vaner Schalie (*The Wilmington Natural Science Club*).

***Winston-Salem, N. C.** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center same as in previous years to include County Farm, Salem Lake, Tanglewood Park, Reynolda, Wake Forest College Campus).—Dec. 31; 7 AM to 5 PM. Foggy and overcast until 9 AM, then clear; temp, 28°-46°; wind SW 0-5

(Continued on page 21)

Christmas Count

1960

Individual
Totals

Common Loon	200	1	86	112	..	Beaufort Co., N. C.	Aiken, S. C.	Eastover, S. C.	Columbia, S. C.	Henderson, N. C.	Raleigh, N. C.	New London, N. C.	Charlotte, N. C.	Anderson, S. C.	Clemson, S. C.	Spartanburg, S. C.	Greensboro, N. C.	Elkin, N. C.	Jefferson, N. C.	Gr. Smoky Mts., N. C.
Red-throated Loon	150	1	129	20	..	Wilmington, N. C.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Horned Grebe	200	52	77	47	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pied-billed Grebe	158	54	6	23	7	..	..	..	18	..	14	..	..	1	..	3	13	..	..	..
Brown Pelican	29	23	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	..	..	..
Gannet	308	..	195	173	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Dbl.-cr. Cormorant	44	22	1	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Great Blue Heron	68	21	6	20	3	..	..	..	4	8	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Little Blue Heron	7	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Egret	35	19	5	8	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Snowy Egret	14	12	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Louisiana Heron	22	7	4	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blk.-cr. Nt. Heron	31	26	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Am. Bittern	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
White Ibis	51	51	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whistling Swan	20	..	..	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canada Goose	743	100	..	102	41	..	..	1	..	..	..	50	..	29	..	..	..	420	..	..
Snow Goose	11	8	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blue Goose	12	10	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	18	..	120	..	20	18	1	..	..
Mallard	125	250	30	450	75	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	88	..	..
Black Duck	712	150	6	402	17	..	..	..	..	..	4	7	..	10	..	..	152	3	..	..
G-wall	90	50	3	35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Pintail	563	500	..	48	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	7	..	..	3	..	..	..
Green-winged Teal	851	500	20	330	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Blue-winged Teal	241	150	..	91	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Am. Widgeon	872	800	45	15	2	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	5	2	..	..
S'owler	256	150	5	100	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wood Duck	169	12	1	152	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Redhead	98	45	..	3	20	..	..	..	53	2	..	..	..	..	10	..	5	..	..	..
Ring-necked Duck	831	45	..	62	2	..	309	11	..	..	84	..	..	..	..	..	208	..	..	..
Canvasback	61	25	..	4	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	4	..	..	..
Scaup (sp.)*	210	148	3	6	..	..	45	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	2	3	..	..	..
Common Goldeneye	7	9	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bufflehead	255	104	55	53	4	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	32	..	..	1
O'squaw	5	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
Common Eider	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Water Pipit	340	85	77	63	..	4	1	..	..	24	6	..	28	10	..	42	..	..
Cedar Waxing	741	118	11	51	..	35	34	32	24	16	45	32	146	20	..	87	14	..
Loggerhead Shrike	303	10	11	15	..	7	10	18	10	38	32	10	41	23	..	3	2	..
Starling	2,167,686	157	321	509	3	6500	30	346	192	1431	1282	1300000	2367	88	600	225	149	..
White-eyed Vireo	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Solitary Vireo	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Orange-crowned Warbler ..	8	4	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Myrtle Warbler	1348	404	320	304	34	3	6	1	62	12	37	..	64	1	..	4	23	..
Yellow-throated Warbler ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pine Warbler	88	21	2	5	1	4	3	7	1	4	7	17	4	1	..	1	..	..
Palm Warbler	6	..	..	3	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Northern Waterbrush	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yellowthroat	26	9	2	9	..	4	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
House Sparrow	3941	1	21	313	89	55	101	1047	86	437	75	250	269	279	..	29	35	..
Eastern Meadowlark	2433	87	103	766	49	57	155	983	36	107	145	357	119	145	3	12	3	194
Redwinged Blackbird	3314	..	661	6675	3881	1805	300	14227	..	..	..	2500000	7	8	..	..	3	..
Baltimore Oriole	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	12	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Rusty Blackbird	448,709	4	2	..	30	8	..	48	..	..	3500	300000	113	..	..	145004	..	..
Boat-tailed Grackle	1082	175	634	273	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Grackle	1,862,196	1125	360	713	4233	2500	..	664	..	3	451	1000000	125	3	..	852018	..	..
Brown-headed Cowbird ..	553,692	14	8	310	500	1650	..	900	..	..	400000	..	133	..	..	150320	..	..
Cardinal	1739	62	44	85	35	35	24	81	47	86	15	124	252	..	57	501	63	71
Indigo Bunting	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dickcissel	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Purple Finch	174	..	3	2	6	..	..	..	21	18	2	23	30	1	..	52	10	5
Pine Siskin .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Am. Goldfinch	464	52	30	68	6	6	15	42	10	18	1	51	40	10	..	48	27	22
Rufous-sided Towhee	840	109	31	88	53	35	89	41	31	58	24	93	38	17	5	49	16	11
Ipswich Sparrow	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Savannah Sparrow	542	19	55	217	..	42	11	79	7	45	..	57	..	3	..	1	..	4
Henslow's Sparrow	8	..	2	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	20	14	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Seaside Sparrow	11	5	72	6	..	56	13	7	..	..	..	15	..	..	5	..	..	..
Vesper Sparrow	185	6	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bachman's Sparrow	2	..	..	..	1	..	96	271	269	456	14	813	454	482	224	132	459	..
Slate-colored Junco	5589	157	78	294	81	35	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chipping Sparrow	649	341	50	17	1	..	2	179	7	125	..	43	5	..	..	4	..	..
Field Sparrow	1788	54	30	110	5	66	20	124	..	7	19	656	74	15	..	35	131	211
White-crowned Sparrow ..	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
White-throated Sparrow ..	6228	17	185	1995	107	127	105	828	181	382	17	371	252	284	..	45	674	186
Fox Sparrow	482	24	12	235	15	6	18	1	37	12	..	5	74	7	..	3	14	20
Swamp Sparrow	732	88	251	65	2	70	1	11	36	1	..	52	6	1	..	1	37	111
Song Sparrow	1590	105	246	135	5	40	8	37	10	97	10	165	84	38	..	13	331	154
Number of species	#	141	113	138	72	67	59	69	52	63	46	75	59	63	30	54	76	63
Number of individuals .....	..	16147	8645	21422	10629	13953	1298	20889	1554	4002	5675	5504288	5962	2548	1261	2253	201276	2898

Total individuals, 7,636,868.
 * See text for scamp species.
 ** Includes some Black-capped Chickadees; see text.



BACKYARD BIRDING

Often the letters in this Department will remind our readers that some of the birds visiting their feeders are of noteworthy interest. I appreciate the short reports and letters that come to me, and wish that space would permit me to publish them all. I am glad to type notes written in longhand; but if possible, please send even the shortest note typewritten, double spaced, on a single sheet of white paper.

Dr. Thomas T. Jones of Durham reported that they have moved about a block away from where they lived for the past fourteen years, but was happy to say that his birds had migrated with them. He had his first Purple Finch on December 21, with the first male the following day. Mr. Clinard's white-throats arrived at Hickory on October 26, which he considered about two weeks late, and fewer than usual. Amy Henderson was reminded that a Red-breasted Nuthatch had arrived at her feeder in Columbia on December 9, 1959, and had remained for the winter months, feeding on suet, cracked nuts, and dried cantaloupe seeds. Mrs. Bachman had a wonderful Christmas present in the arrival of Baltimore Orioles at her feeders, there being from three to five of these lovely visitors. They eat suet, apple, grapes, and the "cookies" made of stale bread crumbs, drippings, cornmeal mush and a little peanut butter. (Mrs. Conderman's recipe.) From watching the actions of the birds and from their plumage, Mrs. Bachman believes that of the five one is a first-year male, two are mature females and two immature females.

Dr. A. L. Pickens, 1729 Lombardy Circle, Charlotte 3, North Carolina, has long been interested in the relation of birds and flowers. He would like anyone to send him information giving the lists of flowers visited by birds, specifying the name and color of the flower as well as the name of the bird. For instance, I watched an Orchard Oriole visit yellow *Hemerocallis* (Day Lilies), and pay no attention to ones nearby that had pink blooms. Why? And what do these birds feed on from these flowers? Since this was very early in the morning, I thought the bird was possibly drinking drops of dew. But does the color of the flower influence the bird? We know that it does with the hummingbird. Dr. Pickens writes:

Our bottle-fed Ruby-throats looked intently at our green Bells of Ireland, but was not seen to drink from them, though the bumblebees gleaned there industriously, and did not bother the birds' flasks as

they once did. Previously, at the old country home, a Rubythroat cautiously wing-danced before the maroonish flowerhead of a tway-blade orchid without attempting to drink. Green and maroon rank at the bottom in the birds' color preferences. They also seem to neglect the great, white, magnolia flowers.

Mrs. Emma V. Walker was spending the weekend of October 8 and 9, 1960, at her cabin on the wooded shore of Lake Murray, twenty-five miles north of Columbia, when she had an unusual experience. Mrs. Walker writes:

Annoyed by a squirrel's bouncing on the roof at 7:30 a.m. on a Sunday morning, I snatched up my raincoat, grabbed my "twenty-two", and eased out to dispose of the pest that had interrupted my sleep. However, it was Sunday morning and the Lord took care of His own, for the squirrel had disappeared. I was about to return to my bed when I took a fleeting glance lakeward. In the range of that glance was a motion. Then time stood still while I glared at a Bald Eagle, some fifty feet away on the lowest limb of a tall pine. Since the tree was down the steep incline, the bird was just about fifteen feet above eye-level. I longed for members of the Bird Club who didn't believe I had seen a Bald Eagle here three years ago, and again two years ago on a point about three-quarters of a mile from this very spot.

The eagle was so busy with his breakfast that he either didn't see me or he ignored me, for he had been in full view while I was searching for the squirrel. He sat facing me, eating something that appeared slightly pinkish. I judged him to be a comparatively young bird. His white head and neck feathers and mahogany-brownish body looked like he was slicked up in his Sunday best, except that he hadn't shaved his legs. There were small feathers (should I say "fuzz"?) growing on the side of his legs, being a little heavier on the right leg. His legs and bill were yellow, and he had big, clear, light-yellowish eyes. I had never seen one close enough to appreciate the coloring.

I slipped up the hill into the back of the house for my binoculars (7 x 35), took a quick look from the screened porch—being almost at eye-level—then returned to my first position. He had finished his repast. This time he noticed my approach and, as I focused my glasses, he stretched his neck from side to side. A motor boat started up, and he took off. It was not until he flew that his white tail came into view, as he had been using it as a balance while tearing his prey apart. I dashed down to the edge of the water to examine the scraps that had fallen from his breakfast table. From an inch of scales left on a tail of a fish I easily identified the prey as a carp.

It was with buoyant steps that I climbed the hill that Sunday morning, still excited and exhilarated from my experience. I looked up to murmur "Thank You, Heavenly Father, for the wonderful world You have given us—even if you have to get it started so early in the morning!"

We may learn from Mrs. R. C. Tedards, Route 2, Brown Road, Anderson, South Carolina, some facts that will prove helpful in caring for injured birds of the Goatsucker family. Mrs. Tedards tells us:

On October 4, 1960, I was driving along the country road on which we live when I saw what I thought was a Whip-poor-will in the middle of the road. I stopped and picked up the bird, and found that it was a female Nighthawk, exhausted and badly injured. I took her home—not hopefully, because of her condition and because I have tried to keep insect-eaters before without success. I placed her in a large, dirt-filled, flower pot on our glassed-in porch. There she sat without moving until late afternoon. I took some pictures of her, fully expecting that she would die before morning. I offered her nourishment in the form of insects, which she ignored; then force-fed her some ground beef and egg yolk mixture, which she promptly regurgitated. So I decided to let her

rest, and to wait until morning—if she were still alive—to try to determine the extent of her injuries.

Much to everyone's surprise, she was alive on the fifth, and would turn her head when we came near her. I picked her up and she protested vocally, but did not struggle. She had received a blow on her head. The left eye was closed and the side and back of her head were swollen and bruised. The right wing was broken between the "elbow and wrist", one of the bones having pierced the skin on the under side. With the help of my maid, who held the bird firmly, I put antiseptic on the skin break, straightened the wing and applied a splint made of a strip of aluminum padded with gauze and taped to the outside of the wing. This I bound to the wing with more gauze and secured with Scotch tape. I did not bind the wing to the body because the elbow joint was usable and I thought it would bother her less to be able to move it.

My next problem was her diet. I finally devised a formula that seemed to please her. It was a blend of insects, (Pet-Pak Turtle Food) cod-liver oil, and ground beef, moistened with water. Although she didn't voluntarily take food for seven days, she progressed rapidly after she began to take nourishment. She never drank water, but occasionally I gave her some with an eye-dropper. After four days the swelling was down noticeably and she could open her eye.

I gave her the run of the house, but she was never what you would call sociable. If there was too much confusion for her, she would waddle on her short legs back to the porch and sit by her flower pot. She had absolutely no fear of people or dogs. If I handled her too much, she would fuss at me; and if one of the dogs came too close, she would fuss at him too. She had the strangest voice. It sounded definitely insect-like to me, but one of our friends said she sounded like a frog. Another described the sound as being like someone gargling softly. She had another call which she gave after having been fed which was very much like the "cluck" of a chicken.

On nice days, I put her in the dog pen which is fenced with narrow gauge wire. She seemed to enjoy the sunshine. I had hoped that she would snare a passing insect, but she seemed to prefer her invalid's diet, which by now she took from a spoon. She spent a good deal of time running, with her wings held over her back. I presume this was for exercise.

The morning of October 15, she got her foot caught in the gauze holding the splint and loosened it. We took it off because we were afraid she would cause further damage to the wing. The wing looked good and did not droop. I decided to keep her as quiet as possible and confined her to the porch. But she had other ideas! By afternoon she was trying to fly and was doing pretty well. In the late afternoon she was very restless, flying from my arm to the tops of the windows. We took her outdoors to give her more maneuvering room and to see how well she could fly. She perched on my arm a minute then flew about a hundred yards into the pasture. She flew well, but seemed weak. I took her in for the night.

The next morning she was flying all around the porch and was pecking on the windows, trying to get out. My husband and I discussed the pros and cons of keeping her longer, but due to the fact that at best her diet was incomplete and that it was getting near time for her to migrate, we felt that she would gain strength faster on her own. Late in the morning I put her in a box so she would stay quiet and not have to be held and took her to our woods to release her. The woods cover about two acres and are relatively quiet and isolated. When I took her from the box she sat quietly on my arm, got her bearings, then flew strongly to the limb of an old pine tree. She turned horizontally on the limb, arranged her feathers, and went to sleep. We watched her for some time, then left. Although we went back to the woods several times, we never saw her again.

—A. R.

FAVER, *Department Editor, Eastover, S. C. January 20, 1961.*

March, 1961

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GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. Burnham Chamberlain, Thomas W. Simpson, MD., Wendell P. Smith, Ivan R. Tomkins, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Wadmalaw Island, S. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

Before presenting General Field Notes for the 39th. time, I want to thank Dr. Blake for permitting me full freedom in handling the department during his editorship of *The Chat*. I fear that the material I have dumped upon him periodically must have made his job very trying at times and I am grateful for his patience with me. I am happy to be able to continue with the assignment under Dr. Johnston.

General Field Notes will grow in value as our members grow in their understanding of the many facets of bird study and as they develop and foster a willingness to share the secrets they stumble upon or wrest from their feathered subjects.

Field notes become worthwhile only when properly evaluated against a background of existing information. Here the assistance of the Advisory Council is sought. With this in mind, I have asked Ivan Tomkins and Wendell Smith to join our group. We have lost Bob Norris through his move to the west coast.

Glossy Ibis Reported in Piedmont North Carolina.—On July 7, 1960, Larry Crawford saw a Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) fly over his house, just above the treetops. Mr. Crawford lives on high ground, in the extreme western part of Greensboro, N. C., miles away from any sizable body of water. The bird was heading northwest, roughly in the direction of Hamburg Lake, about six miles away. This seems a surprising record, so far inland. Apparently it is the first for our Piedmont Region. *Birds of North Carolina* (1959) does record an occurrence near Rocky Mount, in the upper Coastal Plain.—THOMAS E. STREET, *Greensboro, N. C., December 5, 1960*. (For details of the Rocky Mount record see the *Chat*, 20:38—Dept. Ed).

More Fulvous Tree Ducks on the Carolina Coast.—The Fulvous Tree Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) was included in *Birds of North Carolina* (1942) on the basis of a specimen taken in Currituck Sound in July, 1886. Apparently no others were recorded in the state until 1949 when 2 were seen on a lake in Moore County on April 15 of that year and identified by the late Charles L. Broley (*Chat*, 13:49). On Nov. 21, 1959, a single bird was taken on Knott's Island, near the Virginia state line, and on Jan. 18, 1960, three appeared at Orton Plantation near Wilmington, at least two of them remaining for some months (*Chat*, 24:22-23).

South Carolina's first specimen of the Fulvous Tree Duck was not taken until Dec. 16, 1955 (*Chat*, 20:17). In November of the following year about 25 flew into the Savannah River Management Area (S. C.) and remained there for about two weeks. Then, in the latter part of December, 1959, as many as 32 of these ducks came into the Savannah Refuge again (*Chat*, 21:22 and 24:22).

In view of this increase in numbers of Fulvous Tree Ducks coming into the Carolinas in the past two years, the following reports of more arrivals in the fall of 1960 are of considerable interest:

Currituck Sound: 8 on Oct. 19, *fide* John H. Gray Jr., reported by Fred-eric R. Scott.

Orton Plantation (Wilmington): a flock of about 30 came in on Nov. 9 but soon left. Two taken for the State Museum; reported by H. T. Davis and Greg Massey.

Lake Mattamuskeet: 9 on Dec. 10. Three shot; reported by H. T. Davis and Curtis T. Wilson.

Near Lake Phelps, Washington County: 4 or more on Dec. 13, seen by C. L. Moffet and Thomas Hampton, *fide* H. T. Davis.

Manteo, N. C.: 5 were killed on Dec. 29, out of a flock of 15 on a hunt at Bodie Island by W. F. Cox, and W. F. Cox, Jr. They were identified by the Park Ranger who supervised the hunt.

Hatteras Island: 2 females and 1 male were watched at length on Dec. 24, 25, and 26, on a pond at the foot of Hatteras Lighthouse by Maurice Brooks of Morgantown, West Virginia (*pers. comm.*).

Savannah River Refuge, S. C.: 1 was seen Nov. 3, and 9 on Dec. 14, by E. O. Mellinger.

Bull's Island, S. C.: 1 observed on Nov. 12 by John H. Dick.

Since most of the foregoing eight observations were made at widely separated points, it seems a fair assumption that the total of 75 or more, was largely of different individuals. Also, because of the extremely limited coverage of our extensive coastal area by able or interested observers, it seems almost certain that this sampling was but a small fraction of the Fulvous Tree Ducks that moved northeast to the Carolina coast this past fall. At least on had reached Back Bay on the lower Virginia coast by mid-October (Frederic R. Scott, *pers. comm.*).—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Wadmalaw Island, S. C., January 12, 1961.*

Golden Eagle Captured in Ashe County, N. C.—On Nov. 18 or 19, 1960, Charlie Hodges found a magnificent Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) wounded in a field at Jefferson, N. C. It had been shot in a wing by a man who abandoned it when he learned that the shooting was illegal. Hodges took the bird home and cared for it and our Game Warden had a veterinarian see it. The wound has healed nicely, but they say it will never fly again.

I went into the wire enclosure where the eagle is kept and examined it. I could see that the feathers were thick right down to the toes. I believe it is a young bird.

I wrote Mr. Harry Davis, Director of the State Museum at Raleigh, about our find and he located a good home for the eagle. Plans are now complete to transfer it to the zoo of the Junior Museum at Greensboro, N. C.—MRS. A. B. HURT, *Jefferson, N. C., December 5, 1960.*

Upland Plover near Wilmington.—On August 26, 1960, at about 10:30 AM, I first noticed a sandpiper about the size of a Greater Yellowlegs but with a long, thin neck, short bill, and streaked brown back. The bill was yellow and about the same length as the head, which was brown with a streak through the top. The back was dark brown with interrupted streaks. The underparts were streaked or barred. The tail was moderately long, dark in the middle and lighter on the sides. There was no wing stripe, although there appeared to be a flash of white somewhere near the wing-tip when the bird landed. There was black and white barring under the wings. I am satisfied that I was watching an Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*).

Although near the water at Wrightsville Beach, the bird stayed in high grass and flotsam well up on shore. It was quite shy and was flushed by cars several times. It flew like a Spotted Sandpiper and folded its wings slowly when it landed. Its note, which was used only in flight, was *whi-bert*, or *wheet-er-bert*, repeated many times.

I observed this bird over a period of nineteen minutes, through 8 x 50 binoculars at distances ranging down to forty or fifty feet, but it was rarely in the open.

This bird remained at Wrightsville Beach for fifteen or more days. It was watched, either by myself or Mrs. Dot Earle, or Greg Massey, for several days until September 9.—MAURICE BARNHILL, *Wilmington, N. C. December 1, 1960.*

Phalaropes Near Fayetteville, N. C.—On Dec. 15, 1960, I drove from Fayetteville to nearby Forest Lake (Cumberland County), arriving at 4 PM. It was a dark, overcast afternoon. There were sheets of ice on the lake and the following birds—a pair of Ring-necked Ducks in deeper water, about two dozen Mallards, 2 Pied-billed Grebes, and a Common Gallinule was at the shore near me. I noticed a small, dull-colored bird in the vicinity of the Ring-necked Ducks, where it fed most of the time, although it occasionally paddled swiftly off closer to the north shore area, where the grebes were feeding. The darkness of the day gave me only two certain plumage points, a white wing bar, and a suggestion of white at the sides of the tail coverts. In addition, the bill was heavy. This small bird fed only on the top of the water with quick dabbling motions, and occasionally it would spin in a circle, then resume its dabbling into the water. I located Mrs. Louis Whitfield, but when we returned the bird was not in sight. Its behavior indicated that it was a phalarope, and the identifying points suggest most surely a Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*).

The next day was clear, bright, sunny, and very cold. At 10:30 AM, I returned to the lake to look for the Red Phalarope again. Sheets of ice were still on the lake. At about 11 AM, a flock of ten white birds came into sight over the east end of the lake. I first took these to be terns, circling erratically, rising and falling several times as they looked over the lake. They soared out of sight, then returned and finally came to a landing in the center of the lake. In flight the long wings, bent at the wrist, emphasized their likeness to terns; they were grayish above, pure white below, with a darker band at the tip of the tail feathers. On the surface of the water the birds bathed, preened, rose up with flapping wings to display their yellow legs and feet, and paddled about in a fairly close raft. They did not appear to feed at all. When the birds were at rest on the water, the long primaries, extending beyond the tail, I think, gave the impression of an upturned tail. The heads and faces of the birds were white, except for a dark blotch behind the eye. The bills were long and needle-slender.

Mrs. Whitfield and Mrs. Allee joined me, and we carefully checked the birds with Peterson's Guide and Pearson's *Birds of America*, concluding that this flock was made up of Wilson's Phalaropes (*Steganopus tricolor*). They remained until about 12:30 PM, and then took flight. —DORIS C. (MRS. ROSCOE) HAUSER, *Fayetteville, N. C., January 9, 1961.*

Colony Nesters and High Tides at Ocracoke, N. C.—The following letter is of especial interest because it comes from an eye witness to the destructive tides raised at Ocracoke Island by high winds and the full moon of June 9, 1960. The writer and a companion camped at the site during the week-end of June 10-12 to photograph the nesting shorebirds.

"We arrived at Ocracoke at the end of an extended 'northeaster,' according to a park official. Since much of the island is very low, perhaps as much as 30 to 40 percent of Ocracoke was under water during the high tides brought by the storm. Since sand-shell flats constitute most of this low area and this is the preferred nesting situation of the shorebirds, we found the following species affected in various ways:

Piping Plover—Apparently least affected since it nested on higher ground. Young (in first week?) were photographed.

Common Tern—Eggs and nest found washed out in low areas. Young and nests on higher ground unhurt.

Gull-billed Tern—Ready-to-hatch eggs washed out of nests and embryos killed. None found nesting on higher ground and possibly hardest hit species.

Least Tern—All nests apparently on high ground. One young found dead, possibly of other causes.

Black Skimmer—Some nests awash, but others on high ground safe. Evidently nests later, since in opened eggs embryos were relatively undeveloped. Displays and copulation at empty nests in washed areas possibly indicative of immediate re-nesting.

"In nesting areas completely covered by water otherwise, high spots served as tiny islands; and refugee Common and Gull-billed Tern chicks were found on several of them.

"Because of the extensive areas covered by water, the damage to nesting shorebird species could conceivably have been great; but I could not say for sure. It seemed early in the season and perhaps re-nesting was possible for those birds whose nests were destroyed. Birds such as Laughing Gulls and Sandwich and Royal Terns which nested on shell islands in the sound suffered an unknown fate.

"The object of the trip was to photograph nesting shorebirds on Ocracoke Island, but some birding was done enroute. In fact, the more outstanding birds were seen then, including, on June 10,

- (1) Northern Phalarope—A spring-plumaged bird, apparently a male, was watched at twenty to twenty-five feet for several minutes while it fed on a small pond north of the Bodie Island lighthouse at Oregon Inlet.
- (2) Black-necked Stilt—Broken-wing displays were given in a nearby mud and short-grass marsh at the same spot.
- (3) Cliff Swallow—A single bird was observed just north of the Pea Island refuge headquarters.
- (4) Glossy Ibis—Seven birds at Ocracoke.
- (5) migrating shorebirds—At Oregon Inlet Pectoral Sandpipers were common and six White-rumped Sandpipers were seen. At Ocracoke, two Knots were seen, and four more were there on June 12.—HENRY A. HESPENHEIDE, *Norfolk, Virginia, September 5, 1960.*

Saw-whet Owl in Upper Coastal South Carolina.—On Dec. 3, 1960, I caught a Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) in one of my nets at my home in Effingham, Florence Co., S. C. I banded and released it.—E. C. CLYDE, JR., *Effingham, S. C., December 5, 1960.* (As far as we know, this is the first time this rare owl has been reported in South Carolina since J. B. Shuler found one at Greenville on Nov. 12, 1952. (*Chat*, 17:26)—*Dept. Ed.*)

Black-whiskered Vireo, a New Species for North Carolina—The following is from a personal letter from Mrs. Cecil Appleberry, with copy to Aaron Bagg and others:

"On Apr. 1, 1960, Mrs. Dot Earle picked up a bird which had evidently hit a telephone wire in front of her home on the causeway to Wrightsville Beach, N. C. It was still warm so she took it in to try to revive it, but it was dead. She thought it was a Red-eyed Vireo until she began examining it closely and found a line of dark feathers on each side of the throat and noted that the usual black line above the superciliary line was missing. A skin was made by Greg Massey who determined it to be a male.

"Later we took the skin to Raleigh and compared it with the Red-eyed Vireo skins in the State Museum. The bill was a bit longer and heavier than the Red-eyed specimens and none of the museum skins had the whisker marks or was minus the black line bordering the white superciliary line. We thought it was a Black-whiskered Vireo but, as none of us had ever seen the live bird or a skin, we did not dare identify it as such since it was so definitely out of its range. When we moved to Jacksonville, Fla., I

brought the skin with me. Mr. Sam Grimes identified it as a very well marked specimen of the Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloquus*).

"The winds for the Wilmington area at that particular period were: Mar. 30, 17.3 to 31 m.p.h. SW; Mar. 31, 13.9 to 26 m.p.h. SSW; Apr. 1, 1.5 to 14 m.p.h. SE shifting to SW.

"The skin has been sent to the N. C. State Museum to be placed in its Vireo collection.

"I think Mrs. Earle deserves commendation for her alertness in noticing the differences between this bird and the Red-eyed Vireo which it so closely resembles."—EDNA LANIER APPLEBERRY, *Jacksonville, Fla.*

Mr. Bagg's comments to Mrs. Appleberry, with copy to us are most interesting. They follow, in part:

"— I am sending to you the U. S. Weather Bureau maps for 1 a.m. on March 29, 30, 31, and April 1, 1960. These will show that, while there were indeed strong winds blowing from Florida toward the Carolinas on March 29, 30 and 31, the pertinent storm center was never nearer to the Carolinas than the Mississippi Valley, the southern Great Lakes area, and New England. There was, however, a good flow of tropical air from the West Indies and Florida toward Georgia and the Carolinas, particularly on the 30th and 31st of March. Interestingly (and as often, but not always, happens in connection with the Indigos and other spring stragglers which turn up in April in coastal New England), the vireo was found at Wrightsville *after* the cold front had passed over, changing the air mass. It seems almost certain that the vireo reached North Carolina on (or at least by) March 31. Possibly the bird did indeed hit a wire. But, was it weighed? And was any determination made of its fat condition? While I am not familiar with the normal arrival-time of this species, in Florida, it does seem a bit early, suggesting that the bird may have been intercepted by weather in the vicinity of Cuba, perhaps, and that it was in dying condition, not so much from possible injury, as from fatigue and starvation." (We passed Mr. Bagg's questions on to Greg Massey, who had skinned the vireo and received this reply: "Mrs. Earle said that the vireo was found beneath a wire in her yard, but she did not know whether it hit the wire or not. She assumed that it might have. The bird was VERY POOR AND HAD VERY LITTLE FAT. Sexing was difficult but positive. I did not weigh it because of lack of scales."—*Dept Ed*).

Tower Casualties at Columbia, S. C.—In the December, 1960, issue of *The Chat* (p. 103), the Joseph R. Norwoods reported the results of their investigation of the birds killed by striking a 1000 ft. TV tower at Charlotte, N. C., on the last day of September and the first few days of October, 1960. They tabulated a total of 390 birds of 35 species. At Columbia, S. C., on the same nights, a greater kill took place at the WIS transmitter tower. That structure is 1600 ft. tall and is said to be the highest east of the Mississippi River. The casualties there were reported in a personal letter dated Dec. 27, 1960 and quoted almost in full:

"My sister, Mrs. (R. C.) Tedards and I made a tower count on Sept. 29 and Oct. 2 (1960) at the WIS transmitter on the Camden Highway.—Mr. Parker, who works out at the tower told us he had been sweeping dead birds off the building roof by the hundreds and we found several large piles of decomposed birds, so we probably hit the tail end of the migration.

"Our count on the 29th., included:

Red-eyed Vireo	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Black-and-white Warbler	Sora
Parula Warbler	Yellow-shafted Flicker
Ovenbird	Catbird
Am. Redstart	Wood Thrush
Bobolink	Swainson's Thrush

"On Oct. 2,—in addition to the species found on the 29th., we found:

Prairie Warbler
 Palm Warbler
 Waterthrush
 Yellowthroat
 Hooded Warbler
 Summer Tanager
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak (1)
 Indigo Bunting
 Rufous-sided Towhee

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (2)
 Winter Wren
 Brown Thrasher
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 Yellow-throated Vireo
 Magnolia Warbler
 Black-throated Blue Warbler
 Yellow-throated Warbler
 Chestnut-sided Warbler

"Kay (Mrs. Clyde) Sisson and I went out again on the morning of the 4th., (Oct.), but apparently the largest part of the migration was over, for we found no new casualties except a Yellow-breasted Chat.

"— Mr. Parker told us that weather conditions apparently had little or no effect on the number of casualties. He said that as many birds hit the tower on a clear night as during bad weather.

"We found numerous owl pellets. Also, tracks of fox and wildcats. The predators were enjoying a wellfare state. Another casualty was a bat —."

"We did not make a number count, but a conservative estimate would be 500. The vireos and Yellowthroats had the highest casualties with the thrushes, Magnolia Warblers and Redstarts next.

"We brought home two live Red-eyed Vireos—one of which had brown eyes—and a live Ovenbird. One vireo and the Ovenbird survived and I released them.—VIVIAN M. (MRS. ELLISON D.) SMITH, *Columbia, S. C.* (It is unfortunate that circumstances apparently prevented a detailed study, or at least a species count. These tower kills afford the best opportunity ever to extend our knowledge of distribution, movement, sex ratios, weights, fat condition, food, etc. They are a source beyond dreams of a fine study skin collection.—*Dept. Ed*).

NEWS AND COMMENTS

THE 1961 SPRING COUNT—A REMINDER

The idea of spring counting of birds is taking well and it is hoped that it will spread on a carefully planned basis, becoming as popular as the time-honored Christmas Count. Last spring twelve counts came to us and were published. That is only a little better than half the Christmas counts now being taken in the Carolinas.

In general, the area covered should be the area used in the Christmas count, to permit seasonal comparisons. The time for Spring counting is flexible. The peak of the migration period is the usual target. Early arrivals or late departures may be found by shifting the date.

Spring counts are not published in *Audubon Field Notes* but they are recorded in *The Chat*. The requirements are the same as those of the Christmas counts, and, as with the Christmas counts, unusual listings must be supported by the initials of the observer, or better.

Spring counts are normally carried in the September issue (deadline, July 10), but they should be submitted within a few days after they are made. As with the Christmas counts, they should be sent to B. R. Chamberlain, *Wadmaw Island, S. C.*

BIRDS OF NORTH CAROLINA CHECKLIST

David L. Wray has prepared a small "bird record and check list" of the birds of North Carolina. It is Information Circular 60/10 and is available from the N. C. State Museum for 10 cents each. In essence, this is a near-pocket-sized, 12-page check-list, containing seasonal and regional statuses. *Correction*: In the article entitled "A Search for Kites" in the September, 1960, *Chat*, the statement is made to the effect that the snail which the Everglade Kite feeds upon is found only at Lake Okeechobee. A letter from Alexander Sprunt, Jr., informs us that the present range of this snail (*Pomacea caliginosa*) extends "from the Altamaha River in Georgia, south through the Okefinokee Swamp (Georgia) into and through the Florida peninsula in suitable fresh-water localities at least as far south as the Corkscrew Swamp in the Big Cypress area and the Everglades."—B. R. C.

BOOK REVIEWS

Birds of North Carolina. Pearson, Brimley and Brimley (1942); revised by David L. Wray and Harry T. Davis, 1959, 434 pages. North Carolina State Museum, Raleigh. \$5.00.

This is a reprinting and revision of the earlier work by Pearson and the Brimleys, first published in 1919, and issued again in 1942. Fortunately the present revisers have retained most of the excellent data and fine language of the original authors, excluding certain paragraphs considered to be irrelevant. All the new material is set in a distinctive type and starred for ready recognition. This is a very good method, clearly distinguishing the new from the old, but the new notes are scanty and often unclear, leaving much to be desired for the serious student. No references to recent literature are given, and the bibliography appears to be that of the 1942 edition. Therefore the new material lacks substance, and the source of the new information cannot easily be determined. It is too bad that the bibliography could not have been brought up-to-date. The work, following the 1942 edition, includes some species on the basis of sight records only, and there is no hypothetical list.

The paper is good, the type clear, and the binding good. The printing of the color plates (at least in my copy) is not good, lacking register for one thing. In Plate 35, a streak of red, then a streak of yellow, both above the outline of the bird's head, confuse the picture greatly. The squatting American Oyster-catcher in Plate 20, is somewhat greenish on the back, but looks more like the living bird than the results obtained by some other bird artists. As to the standing bird in the background, I do not remember seeing any American Oystercatcher with orange legs. The white chin is not shown, but this feature has been missed by many bird artists, and some taxonomists, including Robert Ridgway.

The compilers had quite a delay from the time of completion of the manuscript until its final publication, so they have added later data in addenda at the back of the book, as well as one sheet to be pasted in. It is too bad that there is no closing date, either of the main manuscript or the addenda, so the reader never knows how current the data are.

"For 1959 there are twelve new birds to be added to the 396 listed for North Carolina in 1942." (xxvi) Whether this means new species or subspecies, I do not know. "The classification in this edition is changed to conform to the latest A.O.U. Check List." (xxvi). This statement is not correct, either as to common names, or scientific names, or order of classification. The order in the Ardeidae is incomprehensible, conforming neither to the 4th edition (1931) of the A.O.U. Check-list, nor to that of the 5th (1957) edition.

In general the common names of the 4th edition are retained, whereas some of the scientific names are brought up-to-date and others are not. From the Purple Sandpiper through four more species, the current generic name of *Erolia* is used, but for the next one, the Dunlin (Red-backed Sandpiper in this book), the old generic name of *Pelidna* is retained without explanation, even though it was changed to *Erolia* in the 20th Supplement to the Check-list in July, 1946.

Again, the Long-billed Dowitcher still retains subspecific status, even though it was given specific rank in 1954. Such a confusing mixup of names and status cannot help but be perplexing to many readers.

One may have much sympathy for the revisers. The work was probably done during the chaos in classification and nomenclature just before the publication of the 5th edition of the A.O.U. Check-list in 1957. Then the delay in publication made more trouble. But good scientific works come from overcoming troubles rather than succumbing to them.

The value of a state bird book extends far beyond the state boundaries. By finding out the status of birds in neighboring states, we learn much about their occurrences in our own. With the exception of Virginia (*Birds of Virginia*, Bailey, 1913, is obsolete.) we now have fairly good state books from Florida through Maryland. This volume will take its place on my bookshelf with the others and be useful and valuable.—IVAN R. TOMKINS.

Briefs for the Files

Red-throated Loon, 2 at Wilmington, Nov. 2, Mrs. Dot Earle. • **Gannet**, 30 at Wilmington, Nov. 25, Maurice Barnhill and Greg Massey. • **Cattle Egret**, 1 at Bath., Beaufort Co., N. C., in a pasture following a small herd of ponies daily from Nov. 25 through Dec. 6, W. W. Worrall *fide* H. T. Davis, • **Wood Ibis**, 15 on Sept. 13, 11 on Sept. 27, 5 on Oct. 9, and singles through Oct. 20, at Wadmalaw Island, S. C., B. R. Chamberlain; 12-15 in mid-October at Edisto Island, S. C., Paul Atwood. • **Whistling Swan**, 1 at Eastwood Lake, Chapel Hill, Oct. 19-29, Lyman Ripperton. • **Canada Goose**, 150 at Mattamuskeet Management Area by Sept. 17, Curtis T. Wilson. • **Bryant**, "a few" in Currituck Sound near Kitty Hawk, Oct. 30, Mr. and Mrs. I. C. Hoover. • **Canvasback**, about 30, **Redhead**, 3 males, 4 females, Concord Lakes, Cabarrus Co., N. C., Jan. 2, 1961, the J. R. Norwoods. • **Mississippi Kite**, 8 at Santee River delta, June 29, Barnhill and Massey. • **Pigeon Hawk**, 2 flying south across St. Helena Sound, S. C., Sept. 24, J. Fred Denton. • **Black Rail**, 1 found injured at Edisto Beach, Sept. 24, J. Fred Denton. • **Common Snipe**, 6, Sept. 17, and 2, Oct. 17 at Wilmington, Greg Massey. • **Purple Sandpiper**, 1, Nov. 25 at Carolina Beach, Maurice Barnhill: 1 at Savannah, Oct. 29, and 10 present there on Nov. 10, Ivan Tomkins. • **Great Black-backed Gull**, 1 at Oregon Inlet and 1 at Mann's Harbor, N. C., Sept. 10-11, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Loftin. • **Black-billed Cuckoo**, 1 killed at TV tower at Charlotte on Oct. 16-17, the J. R. Norwoods. • **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, 1 at flower bed at Green Park Inn, Blowing Rock, N. C., Oct. 1, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson; 1 at Effingham, Florence Co., S. C., Oct. 17, E. C. Clyde, Jr. • **Red-cockaded Woodpecker**, 1 male at Brinkleyville, Halifax Co., N. C., Nov. 14, unusually far inland, Thomas E. Street. • **Cliff Swallow**, 2 at North Wilkesboro, Sept. 8, Wendell P. Smith; 2 at Wilmington, Aug. 24, Barnhill and Massey. • **Brown Creeper**, 1 at Charlotte feeder, Oct. 25, the J. R. Norwoods. • **Worm-eating Warbler**, 1 at Wilmington, Aug. 6, Mrs. Dot Earle and Mrs. Polly Mebane; 1 at North Wilkesboro, Aug. 26, Wendell Smith. • **Blue-winged Warbler**, first this fall at North Wilkesboro, Aug. 28, Wendell Smith. • **Baltimore Oriole**, 1 male at Albemarle, N. C., feeder, Nov. 10, not seen there in other years before Christmas, Mrs. John Whitlock. • **Indigo Bunting**, last seen at Wilmington, Oct. 18, Greg Massey. • **Purple Finch**, 2 females at Charlotte feeder, Nov. 11, the J. R. Norwoods.

All dates 1960 unless otherwise noted.

(Continued from page 6)

mph. Nine observers in five parties. Total party-hours, 25 (16 on foot, 9 by car; total party-miles 103 (17 on foot, 86 by car). **Total species, 59; total individuals, 2,531.** The Blue Goose (TS and LS) and the Solitary Vireo (DJ) were unusual. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Great Blue Heron, Am. Widgeon, Bufflehead, Turkey Vulture, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker).—L. Hartsell Cash (compiler), Charles Frost, Dr. David Johnston, William Rucker, Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Simpson, Lucia Simpson, Dr. Merrill Spencer, Robert Witherington.



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The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, chiefly in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

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Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	\$1.00	Contributing	\$25.00
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The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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Cover Photo—Yellowthroat at nest in bulrush, Fairlawn Plantation, Charleston County, S. C. Photographed by Walter Dawn, Woodside, N. Y.

The Chat

TOWHEES IN THE CAROLINAS

BY CHARLES H. BLAKE

The recent revised edition of the *Birds of North Carolina* (1960) unfortunately leaves the Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) with the confusion inherited from the previous edition (1942) but adds a little more confusion by following neither the fifth edition of the A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds (1957) nor Dickinson's monograph (1952) upon which the Check-list appears to be based. The best that I can do is to straighten out the nomenclature and show the current distribution of the three subspecies occurring in the two states. There are still some unsolved problems. The two maps (Fig. 1 and 2), redrawn from Dickinson, outline the breeding ranges and the northern limits of the winter ranges.

These races are not readily distinguishable in the field, and a bander can discriminate only about 30 per cent of the birds in the hand, chiefly males more than one year old.

Pipilo e. erythrophthalmus

Breeding range. North Carolina: Buncombe, Burke, Cherokee, Greenville (Does Dickinson mean Granville Co.), Jackson, Macon, Sampson, Transylvania, Wake, Watauga counties. South Carolina: Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Pickens counties.

Winter Range. North Carolina: Brunswick, Buncombe, Carteret, Pasquotank, Robeson, Rockingham, Transylvania, Wayne, Yancey counties. South Carolina: Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Georgetown, Horry, Kershaw, Pickens counties.

The iris is red in adults but varies in young birds from dark brown to reddish brown.

This race appears to be present all the year in Orange County, North Carolina, but I doubt that any individual is sedentary.

Pipilo e. canaster

Breeding range. North Carolina: Richmond County.

Winter range. North Carolina: Pitt County. South Carolina: Beaufort, Charleston, Georgetown counties.

The iris color of adults is variable, ranging from red to pale orange, occasionally being yellow according to Dickinson.

A few birds handled in the winter in Orange County, North Carolina seem to agree with this race rather than the previous one. Two towhees banded near Wilmington, New Hanover County, North Carolina in early October, 1959, also were assigned to this race. They were probably migrants.

Pipilo e. rileyi

Breeding range. North Carolina: Brunswick, Carteret, New Hanover counties. South Carolina: Charleston, Georgetown counties.

Winter range. North Carolina: Carteret, Hyde, Pitt, Robeson counties. South Carolina: Beaufort, Charleston, Dorchester, Georgetown, Jasper counties.

In this race the iris color in adults varies from straw to orange or red according to Dickinson. It is noteworthy that both *rileyi* and *canaster* show evidence of spreading north and somewhat northeast of their breeding ranges in winter.

This is the race named *P. e. alleni* in *Birds of North Carolina* (1960) but *alleni* is now considered to be restricted to peninsular Florida.



Figure 1—Breeding ranges of subspecies of the Rufous-sided Towhee in North and South Carolina. “e” and circles = *P.e. erythrophthalmus*; “c” and triangles pointing up = *P.e. canaster*; “r” and triangles pointing down = *P.e. rileyi*. Solid symbols from Dickinson, open symbols from the author's observations. Areas of presumed overlap or intergradation are crosshatched.

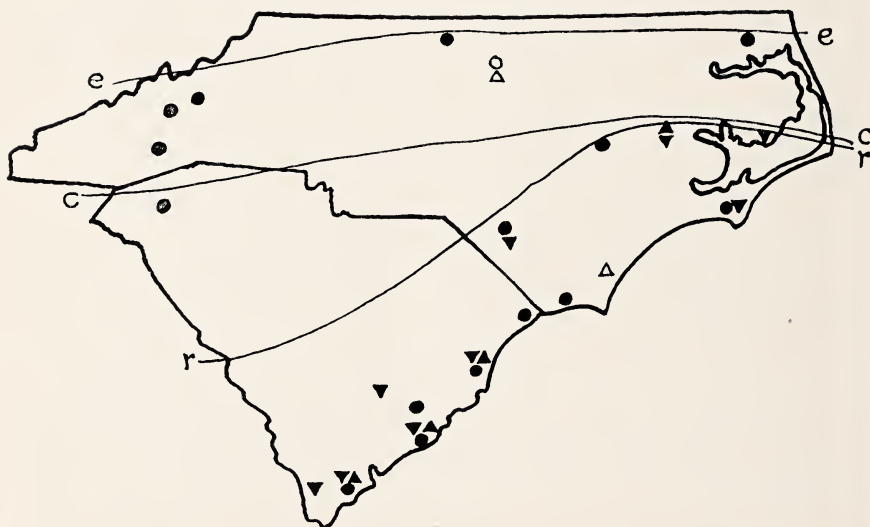


Figure 2—Winter ranges of subspecies of the Rufous-sided Towhee in North and South Carolina. Lines represent Dickinson's northern boundaries. In both figures some small, contiguous groups of counties are marked with single symbols.

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Hillsboro, North Carolina
April 25, 1961.

NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF THE CATTLE EGRET IN THE NEW WORLD

BY CHARLES H. BLAKE

Too often the early history of an immigrant species is shrouded in obscurity. This is especially true if it invades a region ill-provided with resident biologists. The situation is made worse when reputable observations are allowed to remain in manuscript for years afterward. In general, if an invading species becomes established at all, it remains confined to the area of introduction for a variable and sometimes very long period. When the population reaches a high level, the invader may spread explosively and even successfully colonize much new territory within a short time. The Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus i. ibis*) is a case in point. Surprisingly the species has been in the New World for some 50 years. Bond (1956) learned that A. W. B. Long saw it in 1911-12 on the Essequibo Coast west of the Essequibo River (see also Haverschmidt, 1957). As long as the species was not excessively numerous, it proved rather elusive. Even in the Tropics it does not necessarily spend the whole year in one region. Furthermore, the young are evidently great wanderers, like our native herons. A nestling Cattle Egret banded at Lake Okeechobee was shot the following winter 90 km. from Chetumal, Yucatan. As an example of the chance of finding the species, I did not see it on Grand Cayman in October, 1956, or October, 1958, but Bond did find it in January, 1957.

At all events the species spread rather slowly and mostly westward across northern South America until the late 1940's. By that time the population in the Guianas seems to have reached a fairly high level and the northward spread might have begun. There is a report of the bird at Clewiston, Florida, in 1948, or earlier, and Terres (1960: 93) says that one appeared at Cape May, New Jersey, in May, 1951. The first published record for North America is dated July, 1953 (Drury, Morgan, and Stackpole, 1953), and was based on the first specimen collected on this continent, at Wayland, Massachusetts on April 23, 1952. Actually, Richard M. Borden had secured perfectly recognizable motion pictures of at least two individuals near Lake Okeechobee on March 12, 1952. In the following three or four years the Cattle Egret appeared on and, to a degree, occupied the coast from southern New Jersey to southern Texas (Davis, 1960), as well as the Greater Antilles and parts of the Caribbean coast of Central America. Since then this species has consolidated its gains and moved into the Lesser Antilles. I know of no occurrences east of Surinam or south of Colombia except one each from Boliva and Peru (Haverschmidt, 1957).

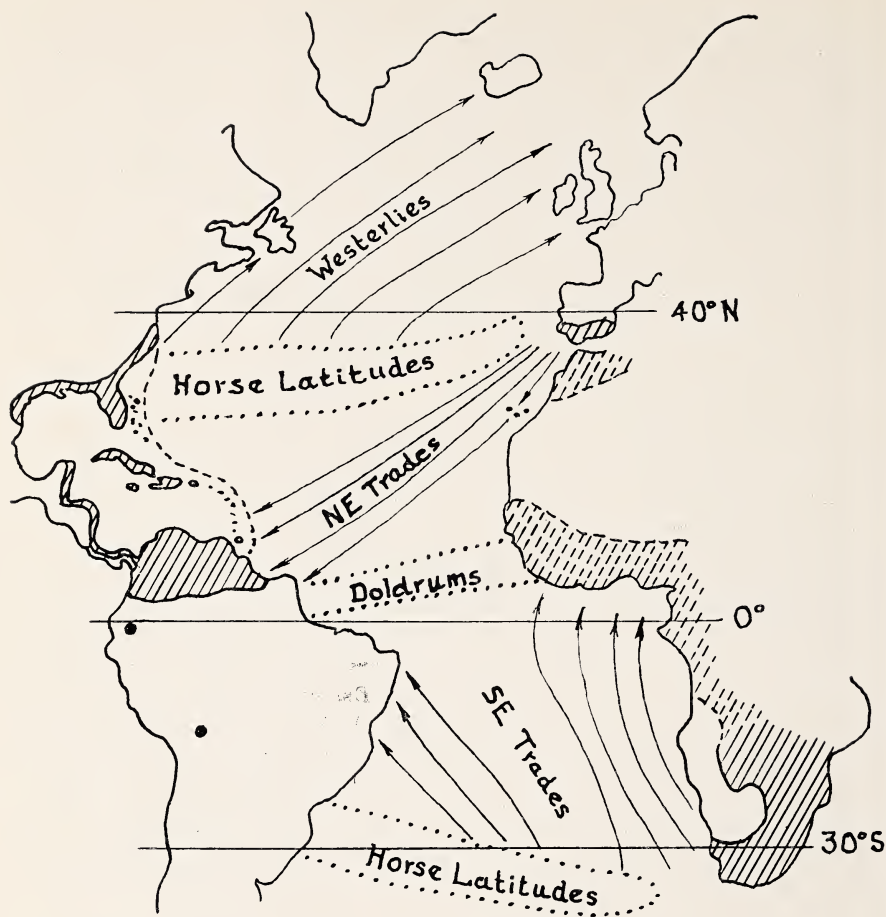


Figure 1—Range of Cattle Egret around the Atlantic Ocean and Atlantic wind systems. Arrows fly with the wind. The regularly occupied range is crosshatched. Broken cross-hatching in Africa shows portion of range estimated by author from rainfall. Part of eastern edge of American range is indicated by a dashed line. In South America the northern circle indicates the one Peruvian occurrence and the southern one two Bolivian occurrences which I cannot locate more precisely.

Of course, we have no direct evidence of the route by which this egret reached the New World. Probably no reasonable hypothesis could be advanced were it not for some other facts. There are published records of 13 other Old World species or subspecies taken mostly in summer, fall, and

early winter in the area from La Martinique to Trinidad. These are: *Little Egret (*Egretta g. garzetta*), European Widgeon (*Anas penelope*), Kestrel (*Falco t. tinnunculus*), Ringed Plover (*Charadrius h. hiaticula*), Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*), Curlew Sandpiper (*Erolia ferruginea*), Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*), *(Eurasian) Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon a. anglica*), White-winged Black Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*), *European Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*), *Alpine Swift (*Apus melba*). The four starred species are not yet recorded in continental North America. Only three of the listed species (Lapwing, Ruff, and European Widgeon) show West Indian records north of the area indicated. I know of but one other European vagrant, the *Spotted Crake (*Porzana porzana*), reported only from elsewhere in the Antilles (St. Martin). (For further data on most of these species, see Bond, 1961.) Of the unstarred species, there are also records from our Atlantic Coast, mostly in winter and spring. I submit that these latter occurrences represent a separate class of events either entirely independent of or subsequent to the West Indian occurrences. In this connection Nisbet (1959) and Eisenmann (1959) have both discussed the transatlantic passages of shorebirds. Rather surprisingly, both authors accept the hypothesis of a transatlantic crossing south of the Equator, and even more startling, Newman (1960a, b) who reviewed both papers regards such a crossing via the Southeast Trades as tending to account for the concentration of European strays at Barbados.

The present theoretical position, then, is that Old World strays reaching extreme northern South America or the southern Lesser Antilles have crossed on a northwesterly course from (southern) Africa to (northeastern) South America. The wind maps available to me seem to show difficulties in accepting the view just stated, and at the same time suggest a simpler hypothesis. The map (Figure 1) is a compromise between two slightly different maps of the midsummer winds over the Atlantic, simplified by the omission of the portions of the Trade Winds which do not closely approach appropriate land masses. First, the Southeast Trades close to the African coast blow nearly north and would tend to carry birds drifting with them to the north coast of the Gulf of Guinea. The part of these trade winds which does reach South America would be first encountered by a crossing bird from a few hundred to as much as 1500 miles off the African coast. About half the journey would involve steering a definite course almost across the wind. For the Cattle Egret the most reasonable point of departure would be South West Africa, a relatively dry to extremely desert region in which the species does not normally occur. Second, the expected South American landfalls would be from Cabo Sao Roque, the eastern tip of Brazil, southward, at least 1800 miles from any part of the continent from which the Cattle Egret has been reported. Further, why, if these Old World species should move north from Brazil, should they be so evident in the Southern Lesser Antilles and mostly unknown until we reach the Middle Atlantic States? This does not seem consonant with a South Atlantic crossing and subsequent northward migration.

My suggestion is to regard the northern occurrences of birds breeding in northern Eurasia as a separate class of events dependent on crossings in high latitudes (north of the Westerlies, for choice) of either the Atlantic or the Pacific. For the southern occurrences I postulate that the birds enter the Northeast Trades between the Iberian Peninsula and the Canary Islands. The possible landfall would be from La Martinique to Cape Orange, the eastern point of French Guiana. The two egrets are particularly significant here because they do not breed to any extent north of southern Spain and Portugal on the Atlantic slope of Europe. The Little Egret taken in Trinidad had been banded as a nestling about six months previously in the Coto Doñana, Spain. (Downs 1959).

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Hillsboro, North Carolina
April 25, 1961



BACKYARD BIRDING

Ernest Cutts, Charleston, South Carolina, reports:

The tenant turnover in one of my bird boxes this spring (1960) seems to have been unusually rapid, especially when you consider that it is a new house and rent-free.

The box, made of cypress slabs and affixed to the trunk of a pecan tree about 16 feet from the ground in a vacant lot next to my house, has witnessed the writing of a whole new chapter on nesting behavior.

Chronologically, this is the story:

April 12: Box placed on tree.

April 14: Starlings move in and begin building bulky nest.

April 24: Five blue Starling eggs in nest.

April 26: Flickers discover box and like it. Begin throwing bits of Starling nest out of box. Starlings resent this audacity and dive-bomb Flickers but don't go in box. I investigate to find Screech Owl in box incubating the five Starling eggs.

April 29: Investigation revealed Starling nest and eggs gone. Not a sign of either in box. No owl present. Assume Flickers had won battle. (In bird study one should never assume.)

May 1: Box clean and Flickers going in and out.

May 2: Flickers vacate the premises; disappear.

May 5: Investigation reveals Screech Owl in box sitting on two eggs (her own, this time).

May 9: Screech Owl has three eggs.

May 11: (Don't go away, there's more). Pair of Crested Flycatchers seen carrying material into box.

May 12: Investigation reveals Flycatchers have carried in enough nesting material to cover bottom of box to a depth of about three inches.

What happened to the little Screech Owl? Thrusting my hand down under the Flycatcher nest I find the three Owl

eggs. Flycatchers had just built on top of them. Owl has disappeared.

May 24: Crested Flycatchers have six eggs. Meantime, Flickers have moved to another box 30 yards away and are incubating their eggs. Screech Owl hasn't been seen since May 9. Starlings have young in natural cavity in tree across the road.

May 28: The Flycatcher nest has been raided. The eggs are gone.

How many of you have ever heard a Hermit Thrush sing? I don't mean on its nesting grounds, I mean in the Southeast during the winter. A recent letter from Mrs. G. E. Charles reported that she and her daughter had seen and heard a singing Hermit Thrush in her daughter's backyard about 5 PM on March 27, 1961. The bird was perched on a limb about eight or ten feet high, and about twenty feet from the spectators. They could see its color and markings and see the movements of its throat. "It sang in subdued notes and of a thrush quality. I had heard the song once before," wrote Mrs. Charles.

Being curious about this reference, I turned to Mrs. Charles' book, *Living With the Birds*, where I found the following:

A Hermit singing. March 17, 1942. At first, I heard its call note. When the bird was located in a small tree, it was singing. I watched it some thirty minutes hoping it would burst into full-throated song, but it did not. I saw it from every angle and could see the movements of its throat. I am sure the song I heard was coming from this bird. In checking other bird watchers, I learned from *The Migrant* that some observers at Johnson City, Tennessee, had heard a Hermit Thrush sing on April 16, 1939.

For several years, a Hermit Thrush was a regular visitor at our kitchen window feeder. In the spring of 1954, my cook told me that she had heard the bird sing. I never did. The bird was very tame, and spent much time on the feeder. However, if we came right to the window, or looked at the bird and talked about it for any length of time, it would give the alarm note "Tut, tut" or "Chuck, chuck" and at the same time *pat one foot* on the feeder. Various interpretations have been advanced as to the cause of this foot-patting, but it appeared to me to be a sign of agitation or of being perturbed. If we would look away or move away, the bird would stop the foot-patting and go on eating. If we would come closer to the window, the bird would fly away. My cook called it the "Patty-foot Bird".

Anyone else heard a Hermit sing?

We were glad to hear from Mrs. R. E. McCoy of Greensboro, North Carolina, as follows:

The red-bellied woodpeckers in our yard are most entertaining birds. Their antics keep the family at the window many times when we should be somewhere else.

Their favorite food is stale doughnut, with suet in second place, but on the morning of January 5th, I noticed the male red-belly on the ground

under a seed feeder. He looked so strange there with the white-throats and juncos that I stopped to watch. He picked up a sunflower seed, hopped to a nearby sweet gum tree, hitched himself up the trunk about a foot, inserted the seed into a crevice in the bark, and hacked it open with his beak. After swallowing the seed, he hopped to the ground to find another.

This procedure was followed three or four times until the bird was unable to find a satisfactory crevice in the bark of the sweet gum. After a short search that took him a foot farther up the tree in a half-spiral, he flew to a scrub pine about four feet away and readily found a crack in the rough bark. After swallowing the seed this time, he dropped to the ground under the scrub pine to look for another. Finding none there, he suddenly flew to an elm tree about twelve feet away, gazed around, got his bearings, and flew back to the ground under the feeder. However, when he had found a seed, he went back to the sweet gum and made the same futile search before going to the scrub pine.

This time, he got back to the seeds with no trouble, but again went to the sweet gum, looked for a crevice, gave up and went to the pine. He left the yard after that and I haven't seen him trying seeds again. The female, on April 1st, clung to the seed feeder, got a seed and flew to a tree with it, but she didn't get a chance to eat it, being harassed by a brown-headed nuthatch at the time.

On January 14th, I put out new wire doughnut holders, one of which hangs from a branch by a short wire. A few days later, we noticed that the red-bellied woodpeckers had worked out their own method of using this feeder. The bird lands on the branch, looks cautiously in all directions, and hitches itself along to the doughnut. After another careful inspection of the area, it swings itself under the branch, which it holds with the right foot while it grasps the wire of the feeder with the left foot. With a final craning of the neck for possible danger, and literally on its back, it begins to eat. This position gives us a fine view of the pink belly, of which we'd previously had only glimpses.

On March 16th, the brown-headed nuthatches began buzzing the red-bellied woodpeckers. Almost every time a red-belly appears in the yard, a nuthatch begins diving at its head, giving an angry "pink" at each swoop. The attack continues from one tree to another all the way across the yard, and at the feeder. The red-belly has a hard time eating, since it constantly has to be on guard and ready to duck. When the woodpecker leaves the feeder, the nuthatch leaves with it, flying a few inches above and fussing all the time, until they are both out of sight.

While the male is often attacked, the female, so far, has been the main target. I have not seen the nuthatch actually strike her head, but she has a dark patch in the red near the crown, as if some feathers might be missing.

On April 1st, a female downy woodpecker was seen buzzing the male red-bellied woodpecker at the feeder, but her attack was not as vicious as that of the nuthatch, and has not been repeated.

At first, we thought the object of this persecution was to drive the red-belly from the feeder, but when the nuthatch did not attack other birds we looked around for another motive. Pearson, in *Birds of North Carolina*, says about the red-headed woodpecker, "There exists a certain amount of evidence that at times it destroys the eggs and young of other birds, a habit which, if true, we have never observed."

We have not been able to find the nest of the brown-headed nuthatch, so we can only wonder if this might be the answer.

On Monday afternoon, March 6, 1961, a lady in Eastover phoned to tell me that several Robins had come down into a chicken yard and attacked a hen. I was amazed, for I'd never heard of such a thing! I was just about to decide that the lady had been mistaken in her identification of the birds, when she added that her nephew who lived with her had caught one of the birds and had it in a box. I could come get it, if I wanted to. Well, I did, for I always want to be sure when I make a report, and sometimes people can misunderstand the markings by which we recognize the different species of birds. I thought maybe this was such an occasion, and that the birds could possibly be grackles, since crows, jays, and such birds have been known to attack living prey.

So I hurried right down the street, and sure enough, the bird was a large Robin, very blackish about the head, and when I held him in my hand, very strong. Actually, I had to hold him in my left hand as I drove home, and several times I thought he would get away from me before the two miles were traveled. I believe the bird was a male, of the Eastern species, since he had been one of a large flock. *South Carolina Bird Life* gives the length of the migratory Robin as nine to ten and three-quarter inches, with the top and sides of the head black. (Page 401.)

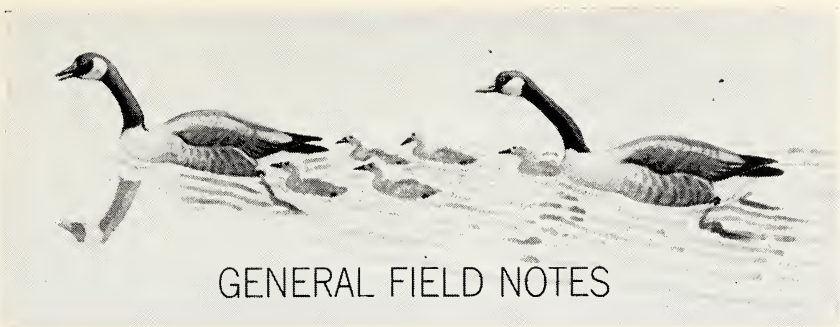
My friends said that five of the Robins had the hen down and were pecking her comb and her eyes, especially the underside of the lids. Her whole head was bloody, and she had "passed out", and surely would have died if they had not driven the birds away.

Now, as far as I know or can find out, such actions are entirely foreign to the normal behavior of Robins. We learn that most of the things that birds do follow a certain pattern, and that the different species respond instinctively to the conditions of their environment. Their lives depend on this ability more than on their intelligence. For instance, White-throated Sparrows come each fall straight to our window feeder, after their long trip from their nesting sites in Canada. Do they rationalize "Now, this lady is interested in birds, so she will give us food through the winter"? No, all they know is that they found food in this place, so we will return to this place.

One person had several young Chimney Swifts that had fallen out of a chimney. They would not open their bills for food, until—quite by accident—an electric fan caused a strong draft of air to strike the baby birds. They immediately opened their mouths! Then the person remembered that as the parent bird would come down the chimney with food, the beating of the wings would fan the young ones. This was the "trigger mechanism" that would cause their mouths to open. So after that, when feeding time came, the fan was turned on, and all went well.

Far more fascinating than the identification and listing of all the species of birds is this study of the behavior patterns of groups and of individual birds. For often, there is some condition that causes a bird to act out of character, and we have an incident that is sometimes amusing, sometimes tragic, but always interesting.

A. R. FAVER, *Eastover, S. C.*



GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. Burnham Chamberlain, Thomas W. Simpson, MD., Wendell P. Smith, Ivan R. Tomkins, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Wadmalaw Island, S. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

Dickcissel at Durham, N. C.—On January 15, 1961, a female Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) was captured in a double funnel trap at our backyard feeding station. The trap had been set for House Sparrows for laboratory use. At the time of capture there were seven birds in the trap which were taken to the laboratory in a paper sack. The first bird removed was immediately noted as different by virtue of the longer and sharper bill. Closer inspection of the rather dingy bird revealed the characteristic markings of a female Dickcissel. The other birds were a male and five female House Sparrows. The Dickcissel is now B 416 in the Duke University Collections. JOSEPH R. BAILEY, *Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. February 8, 1961.*

Ruff Again Seen on the North Carolina Coast.—(In 1959, Paul Sykes, Jr., gave us an acceptable sight record of a Ruff observed on March 21, 1959, in Currituck County, N. C., near the Virginia state line [*Chat*, 23:65]. Later in that year, another report was made to us of a Ruff seen at the Pea Island Refuge but we did not follow it up at the time for the full information required. Now, in view of more recent correspondence on that report, and one seen in 1960 by the same observers, we feel that the following report is entirely acceptable. It is quoted directly from a letter from Dr. Greeves, dated March 5, 1961.—*Dept. Ed.*)

"I again will mention the Ruff (Reeve, it was a female) seen by us (Dr. and Mrs. Greeves) on March 26th., 1960. I feel confident that this truly was a Reeve because of the extremely close observation within a few feet of the bird from our car. To flush her I was forced to get out of the car and chase her and we were able to observe the white patches in the tail. All distinguishing features were seen well especially the yellow at the base of the bill. The location was along the flooded ditch at the entrance to the camp ground at Cape Hatteras lighthouse. Since that time I have been able to examine a Reeve at the Chicago Museum of Natural History and she looks just like our bird did. We had previously, July 1959, observed with field glasses (7X50 B & L) what we believed to be a Reeve associated with some Yellowlegs in the fresh water ponds just beyond the observation platform on the causeway at Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. However, our second bird was so close and observed so well without need of glasses we feel certain of this second observation."—EDWARD D. GREEVES, M. D. (*Great Lakes Naval Hospital*), *Libertyville, Ill.*

Still More Tree Ducks on the North Carolina Coast.—(The following reports, received too late to be including in our March, 1961, listing of Fulvous Tree Ducks observed on the North and South Carolina coast, are of interest. —Dept. Ed.).

John L. Sincok, Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist at Back Bay, Virginia on periodic waterfowl surveys in the Back Bay—Currituck Sound area, made the following counts from a plane: on October 19, 1960, 55 birds on a marsh pond about 1½ miles NE of Swan Island in Currituck County, N. C.—just below the N. C.-Va. state line; and on December 17, 1960, 10 birds in the marsh at Mossey Island, also in Currituck County.—PAUL W. SYKES, JR., *Norfolk Va. March 2, 1961.*

A Sight Record of the Common Eider in North Carolina.—The Wilmington 1960 Christmas count included a Common Eider observed by Robert P. Holmes, Mrs. Cecil Appleberry and others. Since this is a first record for North Carolina, Dr. Holmes has furnished additional data to substantiate his identification. Fortunately, the bird remained at or near the site where it was found, at least through February 19, 1961, where it was studied leisurely by several observers. The following notes are from personal letters dated January 15 and February 1.

"From some distance the bird was obviously a female or immature male eider. The problem was to differentiate between the King Eider and the Common Eider. We viewed it at leisure and at all angles in ideal light at no more than 25 feet (This was possible because the duck remained for some time around or under the Banks Channel Bridge on which they stood). It was because of the unique advantage of seeing the bird swim only a few feet *directly* beneath me that I was able to note the marked posterior extension of the lobes of the upper mandible and to conclude that the bird was the Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)."—ROBERT P. HOLMES, M. D., *Chapel Hill, N. C.*

Another observer contributed his notes on watching this bird: "From 4:30 p.m., to 5:45 p.m., Jan. 10, 1961, the eider was feeding at about mid-point under the Banks Channel Bridge. At times it was within 45 feet of where I stood and I watched it in excellent light through 10X50 binoculars. It fed around the bridge pilings on some form of marine life which took a good deal of manipulation for it to swallow. When it finally saw me it moved into the middle of the sound and settled down with three Buffleheads." His description of the bird follows, in part: Head, dark brown with a crown of a very dark shade of brown; dark bill which definitely *extended to the eye*; breast, three shades lighter than the head; barrings were very faint; dark underwings with lighter patches near the base of the underwings." GREG MASSEY, *Wilmington, N. C., April 3, 1961* (Mr. Massey also believed he detected a "bluish speculum. This was not seen by any other observer. It is not found in available literature for either eider being considered, but it is a mark of Steller's Eider, a smaller duck with a very different bill.—Dept. Ed.).

The Ruff in South Carolina.—While returning from the CBC mid-winter field trip at Hilton Head Island on January 22, 1961, we stopped at the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge, Jasper County, South Carolina, for further bird observations. Soon after turning onto one of the dikes we noted a group of shorebirds including Killdeer, Common Snipe, Western Sandpiper, and Lesser Yellowlegs, feeding around and in a shallow pool left in the bottom of a feeding pond being drained for spring planting. Our attention was attracted almost immediately to an unusual bird feeding among the five Yellowlegs. After careful study at 50 yards through binoculars and 20X telescope and checking on the spot various characters given in Peterson's European Field Guide, we identified the bird as a Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*).

The body of the Ruff appeared chunkier than those of the Yellowlegs and the legs proportionately shorter. The back and wings presented a striking scaled pattern of gray and dark brown while the breast was decidedly buffy with faint brownish markings suggesting a Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

The bill, about equal in length to the head, was horn-colored or brownish throughout, possibly because of staining by the mud in which it was probing. The most eye-catching character was the orange-yellow legs which shown brilliantly in the early afternoon sunshine. We succeeded in flushing the bird twice when the conspicuous oval white patches in each side of the dark tail were noted.

While the Ruff was under observation five additional birders, also returning from Hilton Head, came along and studied the bird. E. O. Mellinger, Refuge Biologist, was notified of the bird's presence and he joined us in studying it. Late that afternoon Ivan R. Tomkins of Savannah was informed by telephone of our observation. He visited the Refuge the next morning and found the bird still present with the Lesser Yellowlegs. All observers concurred in our identification of the bird as a Ruff.

So far as we can determine this is the first report of the occurrence of the Ruff in South Carolina. Since it was impossible to collect the bird, it will have to remain on the hypothetical list until a specimen or other confirmatory evidence of its occurrence is obtained. —J. FRED DENTON, 1510 Pendleton Rd. and WINTHROP HARRINGTON, Ft. Gordon, Augusta, Ga. (A letter from Mr. Mellinger dated February 23 states that the Ruff was not seen at the Refuge after January 23. The habitat at the site changed rapidly after the drainage of the pool.—*Dept. Ed*).

Canadian-banded Yellow-shafted Flicker Recovered in North Carolina.—One weekend in January of 1961, while travelling to Norfolk from N. C. State College, I got a ride with a Mr. L. A. Benton of Hobbsville, Gates County, North Carolina. In the course of conversation, after he found out I was interested in ornithology, he told me of a Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) he had found in his field in December, 1939, that could not fly because of a lump of ice that had formed on its leg over an aluminum band. He removed the ice and band and the bird flew off. Benton then sent a letter with the band to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

I wrote to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, at Laurel, Maryland for their record of this banding and received a reply from Allen J. Duvall, a part of which I quote: "The flicker was banded (No. 34-401012) at Gaspereau, Nova Scotia on July 3, 1939. Mr. Benton reported the bird in a letter of February 1, 1940, from Trotville (mailed through Hobbsville, North Carolina."

Although it is likely that this record has been published somewhere, it is new to me. It is interesting because of the odd way in which the bird became trapped and because the points of banding and capture are about 1000 air-line miles apart.—PAUL W. SYKES, Norfolk, Virginia.

A Mourning Warbler in Western North Carolina.—Following the Carolina Bird Club meeting at High Hampton last spring (1960), my father and I spent the night in Fontana and the next morning drove over to the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest in Graham County. At approximately 10:30 in the morning we left Highway #129 on to a dirt road that leads to the forest. Immediately after leaving the pavement this road crosses a bridge which spans, I believe, the Cheoah River. We parked the car on the other side of the bridge and walked back over the bridge to look for birds on the banks of the river. I noted a Yellow Warbler in a willow tree approximately 25 feet from the bridge and while watching it through my binoculars (8X30) a second warbler came into view. This bird was in the same willow moving around at a height of 10 to 15 feet from the base. I called the second bird to my father's attention and we both observed it clearly in sunlight for at least five minutes. This was sufficient time to retrieve the Field Guide from the car and establish the identity of the bird as a male Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*). With the gray hood and black bib and the absence of an eye-ring, separating it from the Connecticut Warbler, I feel certain of the identification although neither of us had ever seen a Mourning Warbler before.

I note from the *Birds of North Carolina* that the Mourning Warbler has never been reported in North Carolina in the spring. This bird was seen

on May 16, 1960. Incidentally, he was feeding and we did not hear him sing.—JAMES C. TAYLOR, M. D. *Babies Hospital, New York, N. Y., Jan. 22, 1961.* (Dr. Taylor is correct in his reference to the absence of spring records in North Carolina. However, the Mourning Warbler is known in Georgia and in South Carolina only as an extremely rare *spring* migrant.—*Dept. Ed.*)

A Winter Record for the Dickcissel in South Carolina.—In 1935, a male Dickcissel made national ornithological news when it appeared in late January in a yard in Summerville, S. C., providing the first published winter record for the species for the United States (*Auk*, 52:459). Five years later, two birds appeared at the same feeding station at Summerville on January 21 (*South Carolina Bird Life*, 1949). Since 1940, as far as we know, there has been no additional winter report of a Dickcissel in South Carolina until Dec. 30, 1960, when 3 were seen on the Christmas Count at Eastover, near Columbia (*Chat*, 25:4). Again this past winter, on February 5, 1961, a male was discovered by Mrs. L. L. Harr at her feeder at Myrtle Beach. Since Mrs. Harr is not usually at home on week days, she does not know how long the bird had been present or whether it remained regularly for any length of time. However, she was fortunate enough to see it again on March 23. She observed it eating "chick chow" and bread crumbs and suspects that a female was present on the latter date but she was unable to separate it satisfactorily from the numerous House Sparrows and White-throats crowding the feeder. Mrs. Harr did not know what the Dickcissel was when it appeared in February but she promptly sought help in identifying it.

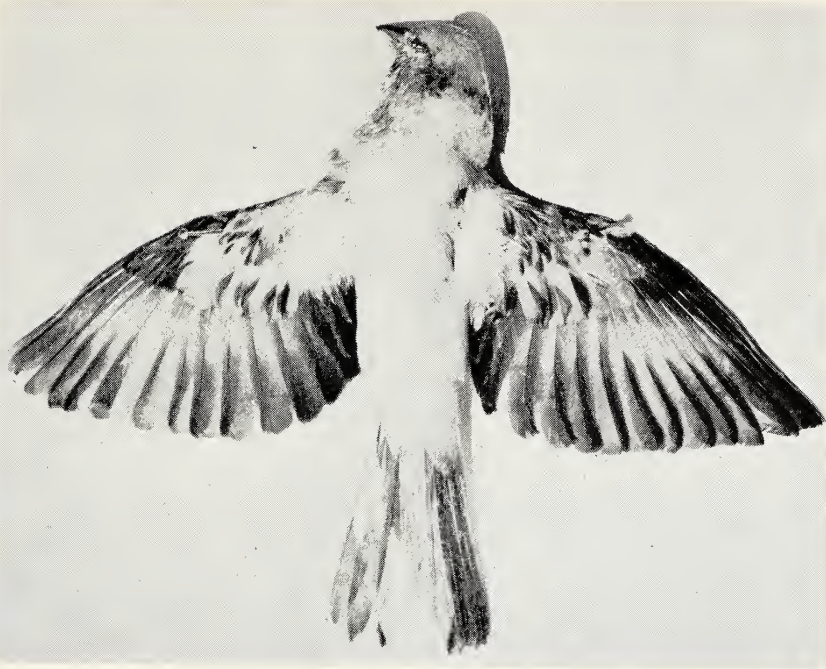
In North Carolina, winter records in the *Chat* for the Dickcissel are: Wilmington, January, 1954 (18:55); Laurinburg, February through April, 1955 (19:69); and Charlotte, January through April, 1956 (20:41); January through April, 1958 (22:48), January and February, 1959 (23:68).—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Wadmalaw Island, S. C., April 13, 1961.* (See report by Bailey, page 32. Ed).

An Albinistic Sparrow from Hiltonhead Island, S. C.—On March 13, 1961, Mrs. J. G. Newhall wrote a note to tell me of a partly white sparrow they would like identified. It had been found in a cage with some game birds. It was alive but soon died. On first glance it was as white as a Snow Bunting in general appearance. The accompanying photograph will show the general pattern better than words can do. Underneath, it was mostly white, with some darker feathers on the throat, tending to make a spot on the upper breast. The one all white primary of the left wing will be noted.

The bird was adult, a female, and in poor flesh, without any of the fat normal to all our wintering sparrows at this time. The immediate cause of death was a subcutaneous hemorrhage on the back of the head. Perhaps it had injured itself in the cage, or one of the game birds may have pecked it. Perhaps its abnormal coloration made it a pariah among its kind, and food was hard to find.

Its identification furnished an interesting problem. It had a yellow spot before the eye and yellow on the bend of the wing. The first step was to list all sparrows with these characters, then to eliminate on the basis of morphological characters. The Seaside and Sharp-tailed sparrows have a different tail; the Savannah Sparrow has a much different shaped wing, with long inner secondaries (tertials); while Henslow's Sparrow is one-third smaller, so it appeared to be an aberrant White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*).

The second step consisted in comparing the generic characters in the plates in Ridgway's *Birds of Middle and North America*, then in comparing the measurements with those given for a female by Ridgway. In both of these, the diagnosis checked out well, and the third step consisted in laying out a series of sparrow skins for comparison as to size, and as to coloration of the feathers that retained the normal color. This comparison also confirmed the tentative identification.



From the present viewpoint, this aberrant coloration would appear to be somatic rather than genetic, because of the lack of bilateral symmetry. One wonders just what primitive patterns lie under the overlay of other color, whether lipochromes (melanins, carotenoids, etc.) or schemochromes (apparent color due to structure).—IVAN R. TOMKINS, 1231 East 50th., Savannah, Ga. April 9, 1961.

NEWS AND COMMENTS

Corrections: In the March, 1961, issue, the date of the Anderson, S. C., Christmas Count on page 2 should have been December 29. In **Briefs for the Files** on page 21 "Bryant" should be "Brant."

In the December, 1960, issue the cover photograph was taken by B. Rhett Chamberlain and not E. B. Chamberlain.

Additional Christmas Counts, 1960. The two accounts below, published in *Audubon Field Notes*, should have been included in the Christmas Count compilation of the *Chat*, 25: 2-10.

Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, N. C. (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Mattamuskeet Lodge, including most of Mattamuskeet Refuge and portions of Swanquarter Refuge; fields and thickets 20%, pine woods and swamps 30%, fresh-water lake 45%, fresh-water marsh 5%).—Jan. 1; 7 AM to 5 PM. Occasional cloudiness; temp. 45° to 64°; wind SW, 5-15 mph. Seven observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 18 (2 on foot, 16 by car); total party-miles, 191 (2 on foot, 189 by car). ♦Pied-billed Grebe, 5; Great Blue Heron, 7; Common Egret, 4; Snowy Egret, 3; Black-crowned Night Heron, 4; Am. Bittern, 3; Whistling Swan, 2000; Canada Goose, 95,000; Snow Goose, 125; Blue Goose, 1000; **Fulvous Tree Duck**, 1 (9 Dec. 10, 3 collected); Mallard, 8000; Black Duck, 14,000; Gadwall, 4000; Pintail, 50,000; Green-winged Teal, 10,000; Blue-winged

Teal, 500; Am. Widgeon, 10,000; Shoveler, 3000; Wood Duck, 300; Redhead, 200; Ring-necked Duck, 5000; Canvasback, 200; Lesser Scaup, 5000; Common Goldeneye, 100; Bufflehead, 100; Ruddy Duck, 5000; Hooded Merganser, 200; Common Merganser, 500; Turkey Vulture, 7; Black Vulture, 5; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Bald Eagle, 8; Marsh Hawk, 12; Sparrow Hawk, 73; Bobwhite, 12; Common Gallinule, 4; Am. Coot, 8000; Killdeer, 7; Am. Woodcock, 6; Common Snipe, 2; Greater Yellowlegs, 3; Great Black-backed Gull, 1; Herring Gull, 16; Ring-billed Gull, 350; Forster's Tern, 1; Mourning Dove, 111; Screech Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 6; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 44; Pileated Woodpecker, 7; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 10; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Eastern Phoebe, 1; Tree Swallow, 4; Common Crow, 54; Fish Crow, 18; Carolina Chickadee, 9; Tufted Titmouse, 1; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 1; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 17; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 33; Catbird, 2; Brown Thrasher, 4; Robin, 221; Hermit Thrush, 2; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 8; Cedar Waxwing, 15; Starling, 135; Parula Warbler, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 142; Palm Warbler, 1; Yellowthroat, 1; House Sparrow, 134; Eastern Meadowlark, 184; Red-winged Blackbird, 18,000; Common Grackle, 63; Brown-headed Cowbird, 200; Cardinal, 17; Am. Goldfinch, 3; Rufous-sided Towhee, 8; Savannah Sparrow, 3; Slate-colored Junco, 15; Field Sparrow, 7; White-throated Sparrow, 18; Fox Sparrow, 6; Swamp Sparrow, 5; Song Sparrow, 8. **Total**, 93 species; about 242,292 individuals—Betty Ball, Willie G. Cahoon (compiler), Geraldine Cox, J. W. Joyner, Thomas Earl Sanderson, John L. Thompson, Curtis T. Wilson.

North Wilkesboro, N. C. (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center North Wilkesboro, including portion of Reddies and Yadkin River Valleys).—Dec. 30; 9 AM to 5:30 PM. High clouds, rain PM; temp. 32° to 42°, wind W, 4-10 mph. One observer. Total party-hours 8½ (8 on foot, ½ by car); total party-miles, 9 (8 on foot, 1 by car).♦ Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 4; Mourning Dove, 187; Barred Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 3; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Eastern Phoebe, 1; Blue Jay, 20; Common Crow, 216; Carolina Chickadee, 13; Tufted Titmouse, 29; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Winter Wren, 6; Carolina Wren, 13; Mockingbird, 6; Robin, 2; Hermit Thrush, 2; Eastern Bluebird, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Cedar Waxwing, 43; Starling, 69; Myrtle Warbler, 7; House Sparrow, 27; Eastern Meadowlark, 16; Rusty Blackbird, 5; Cardinal, 25; Purple Finch, 38; Am. Goldfinch, 10; Rufous-sided Towhee, 6; Slate-colored Junco, 17; Field Sparrow, 7; White-throated Sparrow, 61; Song Sparrow, 39. **Total**, 39 species; about 890 individuals.—Wendell P. Smith.

Bird Food: Several people have called our attention to the danger of feeding birds on peanut butter. Although most wild birds will readily eat peanut butter at feeding stations, it has been found to be a cause of death in many instances. Workers at the American Museum of Natural History have reported that small birds might easily be choked to death by eating plain peanut butter. If, however, the peanut butter is well mixed with equal quantities of bird seed or corn meal or the like, the problem of choking can be averted.

Bald Eagle Study: In recent years there has been a growing concern over the decline in Bald Eagles, so the National Audubon Society is launching a long-term investigation of the species headed by "Sandy" Sprunt. At its outset, the study is aimed at a determination of current population figures. Ultimately these investigations will reveal figures on productivity and will probably lead to some recommended conservation measures. At present the following information is desired:

- (a) *Nest locations.* Described as accurately as possible and plotted on a map.
- (b) *History of nest.* When found, usage each year, etc.
- (c) *Diary of nest.* All observations of adults and young at nest.

(d) *Nesting success*. Number of young produced, predators (potential or actual)

If anyone in C.B.C. can contribute data to this survey, send your notes to Alexander Sprunt, IV, P. O. Box 231, Tavernier, Florida.

BOOK REVIEWS

Hummingbirds. Crawford H. Greenewalt. 1960. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. xxi + 250 pp. \$22.50.

For most readers the core of this book is the set of 70 pictures taken with aid of the high speed, electronic flashlamp. These are reproduced in full color through a 175 screen. They show scarcely more grain than the original photos. The result is a set of magnificent pictures which would have been beyond the bounds of possibility 10 years ago. Some will object to the lack of formal poses, but we are slowly coming to realize that birds in flight, especially those with the capabilities of hummingbirds, assume attitudes anything but formal.

This book was not intended as a complete monograph of the family. Four topics are covered in the text: general characters and behavior, color and iridescence, flight, and methods and equipment. The reviewer has a particular interest in the second and third topics. The chapter on color is the first account, for the general reader, of the actual structures responsible for iridescence. The author and his colleagues used both modern computers and the electron microscope. The structural basis is a stack of films each composed of platelets containing air bubbles, quite different from earlier theoretical suppositions.

Based on both experiments with a reversed wind tunnel and a study of the informal and contortionist poses mentioned above, the author gives a good account of the flying powers and the maneuvers of the Rubythroat. The book should become in due time a classic.—C. H. BLAKE

The Wonders I See. John K. Terres. 1960. Lippincott, 256 pp., illus. \$5.00. This is the latest of the diary type nature books. It skips about, as one would expect, from one thing to another and is hardly adapted to consecutive reading. In many cases the item for a particular day is related to that day only because the author received a letter asking a question, which he then proceeds to answer. Perhaps this method is the only way one can roam over a large part of natural history, and, in any event, the information contained in it is interesting. The book is a good example of what can be seen by a very observant person who has real knowledge of what he is looking at. On the whole, the material seems to be highly accurate, and it might even prove an inspiration to some of our backyard birders.—C. H. BLAKE

The Kirtland's Warbler. Harold Mayfield. 1960. Bull. 40, Cranbrook Inst. Sci. xv + 242 pp. illus. \$6.00.

The late Dr. Josselyn Van Tyne had hoped to write this book. No one was better fitted to carry on for him than his long-time friend and field companion, Harold Mayfield. This is more than a formal life history. The author takes up, as well, the history of the species, its general behavior, and its population dynamics. There is a wealth of clearly presented numerical data. While the species seems to have been more numerous during the last 15 years of the last century than at any other period since its discovery, it is likely that there never were more than a few thousand pairs. The population at present can hardly exceed 5000 breeders. The species has very definite requirements as to plant association (jack pine plus other plant forms) and minimum area. After fire or cutting, an area is only usable for a particular span of about 10 years. Michigan is undertaking to manage three parcels of land especially for Kirtland's Warbler. Mayfield regards the Brown-headed Cowbird as the major threat to the warbler. He devotes an interesting chapter to the problem. The two species did not come in contact until 1895 or later. Among studies of our native birds, this ranks with Mrs. Nice's account of the Song Sparrow, the highest rank.—C. H. BLAKE

A Gathering of Shore Birds. Henry Marion Hall, 1960. Edited and with additions by Roland C. Clement. Illustrated by John Henry Dick. 232 pp. The Devin-Adair Company, New York. \$10.

Persons interested in ornithology have eagerly awaited the publication of *A Gathering of Shore Birds*. Covering species well known only by persons spending years on our coastal waterways, this book brings to its readers the vivid articles about shore birds written by Dr. Hall and first published in the magazine of the National Audubon Society. These selections have been edited and brought up to date by Roland C. Clement, who has added material of his own, particularly in the behavioristic patterns of the various species. Each division contains a lively account of a shore bird, tells of unique display of courtship habits, and describes many unusual experiences and incidents witnessed by Dr. Hall or Clement. In small print the scientific names, the date the species was first identified and where, the field characteristics, and the range of each species are given. In some instances, the Spanish and—when they differ from ours—the English names are added.

The editor comments on the three phases of bird-watching and states the difficulties in classification of shore birds. He concludes chapter one by declaring that the purpose of the book is to "introduce to the non-professional reader a particularly attractive group of birds."

The second chapter explains the scientific groupings in the Shore Bird Families and contains two pages of drawings by John Henry Dick showing one bird typical of each family. Since shore birds—seen on littoral flats—blend so perfectly with the lights and shadows "of sand or shingle," John Henry Dick has chosen this medium—black and white—to present the "obliterative shadings" of their patterns. He has captured the arrested motion of every bird, each species in a typical setting. Ninety-five drawings are interspersed among the fifty-seven sections in Part One of the book.

On the end-pages at the front and back, Dick has given the only presentation of the comparative sizes of the shore birds. This is disappointing. A double page in black and white in the center of the book would have been appreciated by persons who have only limited time to spend at the seashore. However, the publisher, Devin A. Garrity, notes in his Preface that the drawings are basically artistic and not intended for purposes of identification, the Field Guides being adequate for that. Still, we wish there were more drawings. Too, we were amused to see that even so wonderful a book as this could contain a typographical error: on page 131, Cape Cod becomes "Cape God", probably because of so much good birding!

Part Two of *A Gathering of Shore Birds* lists the South American Shore Birds. Part Three tells of The Wanderers: American Shore Birds in Europe, European Shore Birds in America, and Siberian Shore Birds in America.

This is a book that fires the imagination and awakens a desire to see all these birds, watch the fascinating things they do, and visit the lands they inhabit. Since this is impossible, the next best thing is to read this book.—ANNIE RIVERS FAVER.

The Christopher Hoppoldt Journal. Edited, with preface and biographies by Claude Henry Neuffer, Associate Professor of English, the University of South Carolina. Published by The Charleston Museum, 1960. 228 pp. Cloth, \$5.00.

The Hoppoldt Journal is a daily chronicle written a century and a quarter ago by a Charleston boy while serving as a travel assistant, and upon occasion, a secretary, to the renowned pastor-naturalist, John Bachman, on his trip to Europe in 1838. The material is published here for the first time; the manuscript having been discovered carefully preserved by a Hoppoldt descendant.

Happily, the journal is presented without change, retaining in the boy's own language and spelling, the activities and impressions gained in his daily association with Dr. Bachman over the period of seven months during which they visited England and the Continent. An occasional foot-note

has been used for clarity. Since institutions and men of science were the principal targets for Dr. Bachman, the fourteen-year-old Christopher was frequently not invited or chose to seek other entertainment. He is entirely frank in recording his feelings. After a brief stay in London, where they were lodged with Audubon's family, he boasts that he can find his way anywhere in the city. He is provoked when the preoccupied doctor loses a letter and misplaces the railroad tickets. He is bored when he believes he has seen everything to be seen. Boy-like, he climbs to the top of a high monument without stopping.

Although the Journal has merit as a record of the times, the real value of it is found in the additions it brings to our knowledge of John Bachman. With that in mind, the editor has included his substantial biography of Bachman, as well as a brief sketch of Happoldt's life.

The book will serve to direct attention to the rightful place of Dr. Bachman as the scientist whose work and council were so important to the success of Audubon in the preparation of the text accompanying his celebrated paintings.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN

Birds of the West Indies. James Bond. 1961. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston 256 pp. \$6.00.

This is the most up-to-date of the several books on birds of the Antillean regions, and is, without a doubt, the best. For more than thirty-five years Dr. Bond has been considered to be the authority on birds of the region, and has distinguished himself previously by several books and significant publications. This is his latest book. Of the 400-odd species occurring in this region, Bond has compiled accurate and adequate descriptions, notes on voice, habits, nesting, and range. Anyone traveling in the West Indies, therefore, and armed with this handy guide would know where and when each species occurs, what it sounds like, how to identify it, and the specific habitat where the bird would likely occur.

Of paramount importance are the illustrations. Many (80) of the exotic and colorful species are portrayed in full color by Don R. Eckelberry, and are evidently accurate in color, position, and other details. In addition, Earl Poole has contributed 186 line drawings, these being inserted along with the various species accounts. Thus, more than one-half of the species occurring in the West Indies are illustrated in the book.

This field guide can be heartily recommended to any person anticipating travel to the West Indies region. In fact, it is difficult to see how anyone could study birds there without it.—D.W.J.

Penguin Summer. Eleanor Rice Pettingill. 1960. Clarkson N. Potter, Inc. 56 East 66th Street, New York 21, N. Y. 197 pp. \$5.00.

This engaging little book, copiously illustrated with excellent black and white photographs, was written by the wife of the distinguished ornithologist, Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. Although its title suggests a subject confined to penguins, this is far from the truth, for the subtitle, "An adventure with the birds of the Falkland Islands," is far more expressive of its contents. Mrs. Pettingill energetically describes their experiences with many species of birds (Sooty Albatross, Kelp Geese, Skuas, and many others), the landscape and people of the islands, and the capriciousness of the weather during their stay of several months. I, for one, was struck by the similarity of these islands with certain areas of the Arctic (minus penguins, of course). As a result, I could hardly put the book down and would recommend it to anyone interested in this subantarctic region.—

D.W.J.

A Field Guide to Western Birds. Roger Tory Peterson. Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged. 1961. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 366 pp. \$4.95.

Here, at last, is Peterson's revised western guide that so many of us have been waiting for. And, what a pleasant surprise! This new book contains so many improvements and additions over the earlier edition that they will be difficult to enumerate here.

Probably the most conspicuous addition is the increased number of color plates (658) and black-and-white illustrations (584). In his usual fashion,

Peterson depicts the various similar species in comparative poses so that one can readily distinguish among confusing forms. In fact on some of the plates, so many species are shown that it would be difficult for a hummingbird to squeeze between two birds! He has greatly improved the plates on hummingbirds—many of the species are virtually indistinguishable especially in the female and immature plumages—but the plates on gulls are still inadequate. He has not depicted the adults in winter plumage and, more seriously, has not shown or mentioned in the text the confusing third-year plumage found in many large gulls. Except on their breeding grounds, the immature gulls are usually more abundant and much more difficult to identify.

This new edition happily is expanded to include Alaska and Hawaii. By and large Alaskan species are incorporated into the main body of the text and illustrations. In the back of the book, however, is an entire section devoted to Hawaiian species—water birds, native land birds, near extinct or extinct forms, and introduced birds. Finally, two appendices are devoted to accidental species in Western North America and the Hawaiian Island.

Two other improvements come to mind. Under the various species accounts, Peterson directs some statements toward "Similar Species." These remarks are of great assistance in field identification. Also, the old category of "Range" is replaced by "Where found," this latter section embracing not only geographic distribution but also habitat and nest information.

For anyone interested in improving his library or observing birds in Western North America, this improved, enlarged edition can be enthusiastically recommended.—D.W.J.

Ducks, Geese and Swans. Herbert H. Wong. A Sunset Junior Book, J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This 64-page book has excellent illustrations by William D. Berry and is directed to interest children from 8 to 12 years in this group of showy birds. The interest is then focused on what manner of animals these are—how, what, and where they eat, their summer and winter homes as shown by banding, and what must be done if we are to continue to have these birds.

This book originated with Lane Book Company in California, and it is designed for the western states. The migration flyways for North America are well shown, while the refuges and management areas, both state and federal, are shown only for the Western United States. An eastern edition is indicated.—HARRY T. DAVIS

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES.

Brown Pelican, 1, very low over New Bern, N. C., with a small flock of Herring Gulls, Feb. 3, Mrs. Fred D. Conderman. • **Gannet**, a flock estimated at 1500 feeding just inside Oregon Inlet, Dare County, N. C., Feb. 25, Paul W. Sykes, Jr. • **Little Blue Heron**, 2 near Belhaven, N. C., Nov. 9, Mrs. E. L. Sparrow. • **Common Egret**, 40, an unusually large concentration feeding in a "Carolina Bay" near Barnwell, S. C., Jan. 20, J. Fred Denton. • **Whistling Swan**, 38 in a flock low over Belhaven, N. C., Jan. 2, Mrs. E. L. Sparrow; 1 young at City Lake, Rocky Mount, Nov. 9, 1960, J. W. E. Joyner. • **Snow Goose**, 2 by late November and 3, Dec. 1, 1960, 4 from Jan. 19 through Mar. 5 at Savannah River Refuge, E. O. Mellinger. • **Blue Goose**, 3 by late November, 1960 and 13 by Feb. 1. These remained until Mar. 5, Savannah River Refuge, E. O. Mellinger; there were 2 adults and 2 immature at the Hartwell Dam site, Oconee County, S. C., Oct. 3, 1960, Richard H. Peake, Jr. • **Common Goldeneye**, 1 female at City Lake, Rocky Mount, N. C., Jan. 7, 1960; and 1 male in nearby Edgecombe County, Feb. 20, 1960, J. W. E. Joyner. • **Oldsquaw**, 5 in Savannah River just above

Clark Hill Dam, Dec. 10, 1960, J. Fred Denton; a group, both sexes, feeding off-shore near the rocks, Ft. Fisher (Southport), N. C., Dec. 12, 1960, Maurice Barnhill and Greg Massey; and 11 in a small lake near Aiken, S. C., Dec. 21, 1960, William Post, Jr. • **Wilson's Plover**, first seen, Mar. 12 at Edisto Island, S. C., J. Fred Denton. • **Willet**, at Hartwell Lake, near Anderson, S. C., Mar. 19, Mrs. R. C. Tedards. • **Purple Sandpiper**, 6 to 8 at Ft. Fisher and Wrightsville from Dec. 19, 1960 through mid-March, Maurice Barnhill, Greg Massey and Mrs. Dot Earle; and in the Savannah area they were "plentiful as usual this winter" (1960-61), Ivan Tomkins. • **Pectoral Sandpiper**, 1 at Hilton Head, Dec. 31, 1960, Ivan Tomkins; 1 at the edge of Coker Pond, Blowing Rock, N. C., May 19, 1960, Mrs. John Little and party. • **Herring Gull**, a disabled adult male captured in a Winston-Salem street, Jan. 26 by Gorrell C. Myers; several seen along with Ring-billed Gulls at the Hartwell Dam site near Anderson, S. C., during the third week of January, Mrs. R. C. Tedards. • **Ring-billed Gull**, 300 or more at Lake Greenwood (S. C.) Jan. 5, Robert Holmes. • **Bonaparte's Gull**, 4 at Rocky Mount with other gulls, Nov. 24, 1960, J. W. E. Joyner. • **Razorbill**, 1 adult male, alive but badly oiled, captured at Nags Head, N. C., in late February, 1960. Specimen in Norfolk Museum, Roger H. Rageot. • **Mourning Dove**, calling at Brinkleyville, Halifax Co., N. C., Jan. 6 and 8, Thomas E. Street. • **Long-eared Owl**, 1 injured bird captured in Currituck Co., N. C., Nov. 26, 1960, lived until Jan. 1, J. W. E. Joyner. • **Short-eared Owl**, 1 flushed from marshes on Pea Island, Jan. 27, Henry Hesperheide and party. • **Chuck-will's-widow**, 1 or more on Edisto Island, S. C., Mar. 30, J. Fred Denton. • **Chimney Swift**, first noted at Charleston, Mar. 30, R. H. Coleman. • **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, 1 at Magnolia Gardens, Charleston, Apr. 11, Theodore Beckett III. • **Western Kingbird**, 2, Oct. 29 and 2, Nov. 2, 1960, at Hilton Head, S. C., William Post, Jr. • **Purple Martin**, first noted at Charleston, Feb. 1, R. H. Coleman. • **Brown Creeper**, 1 at Hilton Head, S. C., Jan. 22, Mrs. William Cobey. • **Mockingbird**, courtship display, Jan. 27, at Charlotte, the J. R. Norwoods. • **Eastern Bluebird**, *none* seen in the North Wilkesboro area all winter (1960-61), Wendell P. Smith. • **White-eyed Vireo**, 1 or more at Edisto Island, Mar. 11, J. Fred Denton. • **Red-eyed Vireo**, reached Edisto Island, Apr. 1, J. Fred Denton. • **Bachman's Warbler**, a singing male in Charleston County at the early date of Mar. 19, the Robert H. Colemans. • **Parula Warbler**, a female carefully studied at a distance under twenty feet at Hilton Head, S. C., Jan. 22, Mrs. William G. Cobey; 1 at Savannah River Refuge, Mar. 5, E. O. Mellinger. • **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, a male along the banks of Lynches River in Lee County, S. C., in good light, Dec. 29, 1960, Vivian M. (Mrs. Ellison D.) Smith. • **Yellow-throated Warbler**, 1, watched on a wire in the open, in good light, at Charlotte, N. C., Jan. 20, William L. Anderson, Jr., *fide* Joseph R. Norwood. • **Louisiana Waterthrush**, 1, at Umstead State Park, near Raleigh, Mar. 12, an early date, John P. Hardister and James F. Parnell. • **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, a male in good plumage watched in a Charleston yard, Mar. 31, Kenneth Herbert, M. D. • **Red-winged Blackbird**, a flight estimated at 100,000, crossed a highway entering Camden, S. C., Jan. 22, Dr. and Mrs. William G. Cobey. • **Baltimore Oriole**, many present during the winter. Among them, 1 at Elm City, N. C., during a sleet storm, Jan. 26, Mrs. T. B. Winstead; 1 immature, trapped and banded at Charlotte, Jan. 29, William L. Anderson. • **Painted Bunting**, first arrival noted at Charleston, Apr. 8, Theodore Beckett III. • **Purple Finch**, last reported at Charlotte, Mar. 27, Mrs. E. O. Clarkson. • **Snow Bunting**, a flock of 20 feeding in the dunes between Salvo and Avon, near Hatteras, N. C., Nov. 25, Mrs. R. J. Berry; 6 in similar habitat at the southern end of Long Beach (Southport), N. C., at a distance as short as thirty feet, Dec. 21, 1960, Maurice Barnhill and Greg Massey; "a flock" on Bodie Island, N. C., Jan. 26, Charles Hacker and William Post Smith, *fide* John H. Grey, Jr.

All dates 1961 unless otherwise noted.



Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, chiefly in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	\$1.00	Contributing	\$25.00
Supporting	\$5.00	Affiliated Club	\$2.00
Life—\$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)			

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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Division of Birds

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THE CHAT

Volume 25 Number 3
SEPTEMBER, 1961



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Cover Photo—Day-old Wood Duck at entrance to nesting box. Photographed by Jack Dermid at Dr. J. R. Hester's pond near Wendell, N. C.

The Chat

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the April meeting in Whiteville, your president and other officers were re-elected. All of your officers are grateful for your expression of confidence in them and they shall make every effort to carry out the will of the membership in all matters of interest to the Carolina Bird Club. It was announced there that all committee chairmen and their committee members were re-appointed and requested to serve for another term. Subsequent to that meeting a few changes have been made. The nominating committee, consisting of Mr. George Potter as chairman, Mrs. S. E. Harten, Miss Ruth Gilreath, Mrs. A. W. Backman, Fred Conderman, and Frank Schulken, has already begun its task of selecting a slate of officers for election at our next annual meeting.

Executive Committee Meets

The executive committee met in Columbia August 12 to transact the business of the Carolina Bird Club. The reports were all most encouraging. The present membership is one of the largest in the history of the club, about 1250. The financial condition is sound. We look forward to a new year of progress and achievement.

Field Trips—Past and Future

The attendance upon field trips during your president's term of office, beginning in the spring of 1960 at Cashiers and continuing at Blowing Rock last fall, Hilton Head Island in mid-winter and Whiteville last spring, has been excellent. The choice of sites and the planning by the field trip committee with George Smith as chairman have contributed to the success of these trips. The timely announcements and articles supplied to the newspapers of the two states by Mrs. Fred Conderman and her publicity committee helped to assure the good attendance.

Ninety congenial and enthusiastic members attended the spring field trip in Whiteville. The hotel and motel accommodations were adequate and comfortable. The First Presbyterian Church of Whiteville graciously provided the assembly room for our business sessions. The local newspaper, the Whiteville Reporter, gave us excellent news coverage. There were ninety-six species of birds observed under ideal weather conditions. The highlight of the occasion was a Cattle Egret in spring plumage sitting for over an hour on a post just off of the roadway. The coming and going of bird clubbers did not seem to disturb it, and most of those in attendance saw it.

The tentative field trip sites selected for the coming year are Clemson, South Carolina in October, Mattamuskeet, North Carolina in mid-winter and Cashiers, North Carolina in the spring. An annual business meeting is being planned for March when the club will celebrate its Silver Anniversary.

Plan a field trip on your own. Hawk migration will soon be underway again. Many of you should plan a week-end in the out-of-doors during September or October for the specific purpose of observing the movement of hawks. Report your observations to Margaret Harper, 101 Kirkwood Avenue, Lenoir, North Carolina.

Publications

The quality of *The Chat* testifies to the fact that Dr. Johnston is doing an excellent job as editor. However, he needs papers of quality for publication and the papers must come from the members. Please do what you can to assure a constant supply of suitable material. Remember, also, that Mrs. Faver and Rhett Chamberlain are depending upon you for their departments.

Harry Davis has done a fine job as editor of the Newsletter. Many times he has seemed to do almost the impossible when material is so very late reaching him. It has been the policy to try to have the Newsletter in the hands of members at least three weeks before a field trip.

Conservation

The United States Senate ratified the International Convention for Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil on May 16. Subsequent to this Oil Pollution, legislation (H.R. 8215) has been introduced into the House by Congressman H. C. Bonner of North Carolina.

Golden Eagle protection bills (H. J. Res 487 and H. J. Res 489) have been introduced into both houses of congress. In the House they have been referred to the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. Congressman Bonner is chairman of this committee. You could help the cause of conservation by letting Congressman Bonner know you approve of his support of these measures. Be sure to thank him for what he has already done.

A Pesticides Coordination Bill (S. 3472) has been referred to the Senate agricultural committee which includes Senator Olin Johnston of South Carolina and B. Everett Jordan of North Carolina. Let these men hear from you on this matter. You will be interested in knowing that British Commissioner of Agriculture, Mr. Christopher Soames, has called for a voluntary ban on the use of toxic chemicals in seed dressings in the United Kingdom next spring.

From time to time the legislative branches of our state governments or our federal government are called upon to set aside wilderness areas as refuges to place controls on practices that endanger our natural resources. Usually these actions are opposed by some vested interests. We, as conservation minded people, should constantly support all efforts to care for and protect our natural resources including our wilderness areas.

Let all Carolina Bird Club members strive to see that "the living earth" remains alive.

BIRD RECORDS FROM WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

BY WENDELL P. SMITH

These records cover a period of nearly eight years, beginning September 20, 1953. Observations have been largely confined to the immediate vicinity of North Wilkesboro. Seven weeks during June and July were spent at Raven Knob Boy Scout Camp in Franklin Township, Surry County, during 1958, 1959, and 1960. Outlying part of Wilkes County have been visited from time to time, but systematic coverage has been within a radius of two miles of North Wilkesboro.

Three habitats have received particular attention. One is a cultivated field beside the Yadkin River. An abandoned river channel fills with water in heavy rains affording feeding grounds for waterfowl and shorebirds. The banks of the Yadkin lined with trees and shrubbery invite passing migrant flocks of blackbirds to rest. The second habitat adjoins the first, a wooded swamp of slightly more than six acres which, perhaps owing to the density of its vegetation, harbors more than the usual number of birds for its size. The third area is a dirt road following the course of Reddies' River, a tributary of the Yadkin. Low wooded hills closely enclose the stream whereas its banks support a thick growth of shrubbery. Several small brooks thread their way through ravines to the larger stream. Areas of white and short-leaved pine are interspersed with oaks, hickories, tulip trees, and red maple. It is on these three areas that nearly all of the North Wilkesboro records have been secured.

The altitude of the North Wilkesboro habitats varies from 1,000 to 1,200 feet. Raven Knob Boy Scout Reservation offers a wider range of altitude, but the records included there were made at altitudes ranging from 1,050 to 1,100 feet. The Lenoir record of the Nashville Warbler was made near the summit of Hibriten Mountain at an approximate altitude of 2,250 feet.

Common Loon. *Gavia immer*. Roaring Gap: November 24, 1955.

Horned Grebe. *Podiceps auritus*. North Wilkesboro: March 26, 1958.

Little Blue Heron. *Florida caerulea*. Lake John Sabotta, Raven Knob Boy Scout Reservation, Franklin Township, Surry County: July 4-17, four in immature plumage. North Wilkesboro: September 11, 1955, August 26, 1956, and May 3, 1958.

Common Egret. *Casmerodius albus*. North Wilkesboro: August 25, and September 4, 1956. Roaring River, Wilkes County: seven, July 10, 1960.

Snowy Egret. *Leucophoxa thula*. North Wilkesboro: four, April 22, 1956.

American Bittern. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. North Wilkesboro: one, July 24, 1954, and October 1, 1957.

European Widgeon. *Mareca penelope*. North Wilkesboro: one, April 24, 1955. The bird was seen through 7x binoculars at close range; a brownish crown was distinctly noted.

Canvasback. *Aythya valisineria*. North Wilkesboro: one, April 26, 1958.

Black Vulture. *Coragyps atratus*. Two, March 21, 1960.

Virginia Rail. *Rallus limicola*. One found dead at Moravian Falls, Wilkes County: May 21, 1954.

Sora. *Porzana carolina*. One found dead at Moravian Falls, Wilkes County: October 29, 1958.

Bank Rail. *Laterallus jamaicensis*. Lake John Sabotta, Franklin Township, Surry County: one feigning injury on July 16, 1959. North Wilkesboro: one, May 21, 1961.

- American Golden Plover. *Pluvialis dominica*. North Wilkesboro: 21 following Hurricane "Gracie," October 2, 1959.
- Upland Plover. *Bartramia longicauda*. North Wilkesboro: four, April 7, 1960.
- Pectoral Sandpiper. *Erolia melanotos*. North Wilkesboro: one, April 25, 1961.
- White-rumped Sandpiper. *Erolia fuscicollis*. North Wilkesboro: April 21, 1956.
- Least Sandpiper. *Erolia minutilla*. North Wilkesboro: one, September 19, 1957.
- Western Sandpiper. *Ereunetes mauri*. Three near Ronda, Wilkes County: May 9, 1954.
- Red Phalarope. *Phalaropus fulicarius*. Following Hurricane "Gracie" at North Wilkesboro: October 16, 1959.
- Black-billed Cuckoo. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. Seven records at North Wilkesboro, three of them in spring. These range from April 27, to May 6. Fall occurrences are between October 8, and November 1.
- Short-eared Owl. *Asio flammeus*. One at North Wilkesboro: October 3, 1958.
- Red-headed Woodpecker. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. Records for four years at North Wilkesboro with one each year. Observation dates vary from July 27, to October 23.
- Western Kingbird. *Tyrannus verticalis*. One at North Wilkesboro: August 15, 1960.
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. *Empidonax flaviventris*. Seven records covering seven years at North Wilkesboro. Four in spring ranging from May 10, to May 17. Fall records vary from August 16, to October 7. One was seen at Cashiers, May 13, 1960.
- Traill's Flycatcher. *Empidonax traillii*. One was collected by Dr. Henry Stevenson and the author at North Wilkesboro, in June, 1958. Identification was confirmed by Dr. Alexander Wetmore of the Smithsonian Institution. Since 1958 from two to three pairs have spent the entire summer in the small wooded swamp where the specimen was taken. Agitation shown by the adult birds and the calls of young should be sufficient evidence for nesting.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher. *Nuttallornis borealis*. Seven records at North Wilkesboro covering the period of 1954-61. Only one spring record (May 1, 1958) exists, the others being in fall. These range from August 20, to September 18. One was seen at Raven Knob Boy Scout Reservation on June 30, 1959. At Cashiers, May 14, 1960, one was seen and heard singing with as much volume and frequency as on its northern breeding grounds.
- Long-billed Marsh Wren. *Telmatodytes palustris*. One at North Wilkesboro: October 1, 1957.
- Short-billed Marsh Wren. *Cistothorus platensis*. One near North Wilkesboro: May 7, 1961.
- Philadelphia Vireo. *Vireo philadelphicus*. Twelve records at North Wilkesboro each year from 1953 to 1959. Spring records range from April 25, 1955 to May 18, 1959, and fall records, from August 15, 1958, to October 6, 1953.
- Warbling Vireo. *Vireo gilvus*. Six records at North Wilkesboro with one spring occurrence, May 20, 1954. Five fall records ranging from August 17, 1954 to October 2, 1953.
- Worm-eating Warbler. *Helmitheros vermivorus*. Twelve records at North Wilkesboro. Spring dates range from April 21 to May 3. Fall departures vary between August 29, and September 30. Scolding of a pair in a restricted locality suggested breeding during two seasons.
- Golden-winged Warbler. *Vermivora chrysoptera*. Four records at North Wilkesboro: April 23, 1954, August 17, 1957, April 29, 1958, and August 18, 1960.

Blue-winged Warbler. *Vermivora pinus*. Five records at North Wilkesboro: May 20, 1956, October 1, 1957, September 15, and 18, 1959, and May 8, 1961.

Nashville Warbler. *Vermivora ruficapilla*. Four occurrences at North Wilkesboro: September 26, 1953, May 20, 1954, August 17, 1954, and September 13, 1955. One record at Lenoir on April 30, 1960.

Cerulean Warbler. *Dendroica cerulea*. Eight records at North Wilkesboro covering five years. There have been three in spring ranging from April 24, to May 16. Fall occurrences vary between August 8 and September 8.

Connecticut Warbler. *Oporornis agilis*. Although North Wilkesboro is in the Atlantic Watershed, it is only some eighteen miles from the Mississippi Watershed. I was somewhat surprised to see this species on May 6, 1956. It was singing frequently and from long familiarity with the song of the Mourning Warbler, I assigned it to a species of the genus *Oporornis*. After much patient waiting the bird emerged from a laurel-rhododendron tangle and showed itself in good light. I watched it through 7X binoculars at fairly close range and verified every mark of identification. Three fall records ranging from August 16, to September 14, have also been made.

Mourning Warbler. *Oporornis philadelphia*. Two records at North Wilkesboro: August 12, 1954, and September 25, 1955.

Lark Sparrow. *Chondestes grammacus*. Three at North Wilkesboro: November 13, 1959.

Lincoln's Sparrow. *Melospiza lincolni*. Three at North Wilkesboro: September 24, 1956.

North Wilkesboro, North Carolina
August 1, 1961

A PAIR OF MOCKINGBIRDS AT CLEMSON

BY GASTON GAGE

This is an account of a pair of Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottis*). These mockers lived in our front yard at Clemson, S. C. from the spring of 1953 until the spring of 1959. I am reasonably certain that the pair was made up of the same two individuals throughout these years. There was hardly a day passed that I did not see both birds in the yard and usually I saw them a number of times each day. They were regular visitors to the feeding tray that was on the living room window ledge. I soon learned to tell the male and female apart, for the male was a little lighter shade of gray, and when perched, he showed considerably more white in his wings.

There was never a break in the association of this pair of birds that would lead one to suspect that there had been a shifting of mates. Occasionally a stray mocker would wander into the yard but the two of them would quickly drive it away, regardless of the season. During the winter months I would often see them perched within a few feet of each other on a phone wire or in a bush. There was never any sign of their setting up separate territories during this season. This is contrary to what much of the literature says on the subject.

SINGING

I have searched for information relating to female mockingbirds' singing. I have never found anything written on the subject, and I have never found anyone who could answer the question. The female of this pair did

sing, but I never knew her to sing at any time except during October. I saw her singing in October, 1956, 1957, and 1958. At these times I saw the two birds perched within a few feet of each other, either on a wire or in a shrub of some kind and both singing at the same time. The song of the female was always a soft song with none of the "mocking" of the male. She was never seen singing from a high elevation as he often did. Her voice was never strong and if she had been out of sight the song could have been mistaken for some other bird.

Much of the finest singing done by the male came in October and the early part of November. After he had spent the whole summer with his family problems and then gone through his molt, he seemed to be in his singing prime. He seemed to sing better then than in the spring.

The male did not get much chance to sing during the spring and summer because of family cares. He did practically all the feeding of the young from the time they left the nest until they were driven away and the next brood hatched. The only singing that he did was a brief period as each brood hatched. In the year when nesting was a complete failure he did much more singing. One peculiarity of this mockingbird was that he never sang at night. He had the usual repertoire of "mockings" that he went through, and I could identify some ten or twelve songs in his song. Two of the favorites were the bobwhite and whip-poor-will.

NESTING

Nesting of this pair followed an erratic pattern. Because the nests were usually in a pyracantha bush, I did not attempt to look into the nest. The date that I could best follow was the date on which the young left the nest. Shown here is a table that gives the days the young left the nest and the days elapsing.

Year	1st Brood Off Nest		2nd Brood Off Nest		Days Apart	3rd Brood Off Nest		Days Apart	4th Brood Off Nest		Days Apart
1953	May	1	June	4	35	July	10	36			
1954	May	4	June	20	47	July	26	36			
1955	May	6	*			June	30				
1956	April	28	June	2	35	July	4	32	July	29	25
1957	April	24	May	30	36	July	2	33	August	5	33
1958	**										

* Second nest broken up June 11

** All nestings failed

The four broods in 1956 and 1957 were rather unusual. But the year 1958 was a year of tragedy. This year the pattern was:

April 19—First nest started. Broken up by wind and rain.

May 1—Second nest started. Four eggs on May 9. Broken up on May 21 just before due to hatch.

May 24—Started third nest. This nest destroyed on June 25 with young about one week old.

July —Started fourth nest in same pyracantha bush as third and this nest was broken up on August 4.

The year 1957 produced a rather unusual nest building procedure. This was never duplicated. Here is what took place:

Feb. 17—Building nest in pyracantha bush. Male carrying material.

Feb. 23—Abandoned first nest and started second in hemlock bush.

March 2—Still working on nest in hemlock bush.

March 22—Building third nest in same pyracantha bush as first. Nest in hemlock never used.

March 30—Brooding eggs in the third nest.

This third nest produced a brood, and three more broods were successfully hatched and brought off that year.

This same year of 1957, the mockers built their nest in a pyracantha bush—a favorite shrub—in which a pair of cardinals had a nest. These two families lived in harmony with their nests only five feet apart. During one stage they were both feeding young at the same time. At another time, brown thrashers were feeding young in a nest in the same pyracantha bush where the mockers were brooding eggs.

In 1954 they repaired an old nest that they had used in 1953, using it for the second time. I never saw them do this but this once. They did build new nests within a foot or two of old nests.

On one occasion, I observed one of the mockers put the first stick in place in the nest building program. They completed this nest and raised a brood in it.

About the time the young birds were ready to leave the nest a new nest was started. In 1956, they started a new nest four days before the young left the old nest. In 1953, they started the new nest two days after the young left the old nest. Both birds worked at nest-building.

FEEDING

The male bird did practically all the feeding of the young after they left the nest, because the female was busy with new duties while the male tended the last brood.

Two or three days before the brood left the nest their voices became much stranger. This was perhaps preparation for the time after leaving the nest when the young must let the parents know where they are. At about this same time, the male became very belligerent, scolding and diving at whatever comes near. This active belligerency continued until the young had been out of the nest for about three days. There may be some connection between the time of this protective action and the time the young birds cannot fly, because the parent quieted down when the young started to fly.

Just before the new brood hatched, the male started to drive out of the territory the brood he had been feeding. I have seen him feeding the young birds one day and driving them out the next. After a day or two of this treatment, the young birds disappeared from the territory. There is a longer period of feeding in the case of the last brood.

In the winter and spring mockers defend the berries of the pyracantha from the forays of cedar waxwings. I have seen them successfully working together to keep a flock of from 50 to 100 waxwings driven away. As a rule, they seemed never to object to other birds. Pyracantha berries provided a basic diet all winter and spring.

During the mating season this pair engaged in scolding most of the time. If one came to the feeding tray while the other was there, there was always a scolding contest. If one came to the nest to feed the young while the other was there, they would scold. It seemed to be the female that was doing most of the scolding.

In the spring of 1959 this pair built their first nest in a pyracantha bush in the front yard. The female was brooding the eggs when she disappeared. The male stayed around the yard for a week or ten days and he disappeared. Even so, the above observations have afforded us a great deal of pleasure in watching their everyday living behavior.

*Clemson College,
Clemson, South Carolina,
May 1, 1961.*

THE 1961 SPRING COUNT

BY B. R. CHAMBERLAIN

Spring Counts for 1961 were received from seventeen locations in the Carolinas. In the previous spring only twelve counts were reported. A welcomed weather break at the end of April made the 29th of that month particularly appealing, and that day was selected at seven of the localities reporting. All of this year's counts were made between Apr. 29 and May 7, inclusive, and it is likely that this period was the most favorable of the entire season for locating migrants in the Carolinas.

Where comparison with the 1960 spring count is feasible, each area in the present count shows an increase over last year's figure in the number of species found. In most cases the individual counts were also up this year. The total species count for 1961 was 219. At Greensboro, where a new high count of 148 species was made, new pond areas were believed to be the attraction. At Anderson, backwaters of the new Hartwell dam were certainly a factor. At Charlotte an unprecedented species count of 112 was made on May 6, a partly cloudy day with temperatures ranging from 51° to 70°. The success there was due particularly to intensive field work by five parties under able leadership.

In the detailed accounts that follow, there are numerous interesting features that deserve much more attention than we can give them here and if the one hundred and ninety-one observers who made these counts will study them carefully, they can add much to their day in the field. Spotting birds and tallying their numbers in the field can be rewarding but

it seems inconsistent to abandon promptly what has been found without an attempt at understanding it.

Some features of the 1961 count assert themselves. More shorebirds were found inland than usual. There were more swallows and flycatchers this year. Bank and Cliff swallows, rarely included in previous counts, were present in several reports—all from inland locations. Raleigh reported 6 Bank Swallows; Greensboro tallied a remarkable total of 504 of them. Clemson, New London, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and Lenoir reported Cliff Swallows in numbers from 1 to 45. At Aiken, a Traill's Flycatcher was found. Eleven Least Flycatchers are in the Jefferson count; Raleigh and Greensboro also found them. Warblers are well spread throughout the counts and some unusual finds were recorded. Tennessee Warblers, extremely scarce as spring migrants, were found singly at Greensboro, Chapel Hill, and Charleston, and 6 were counted at Clemson. Two Cerulean Warblers are in the Clemson count and one is in the Greensboro count. A Wilson's Warbler, seldom found even in our mountains in spring or fall, was seen at Jefferson. Canada Warblers appeared at Raleigh, Charlotte, Greensboro, and Jefferson. A male Bachman's Warbler, presumably the same bird that has been found in the Bull's Island area for several years, was noted in the Charleston count.

An examination of the Myrtle Warbler distribution seems to tell something. As winter residents, Myrtle Warblers are pretty well spread over the territory. Along the coast they are fairly abundant at that season. In the spring the coastal birds disappear early and the population above the fall line swells appreciably due to the influx from the south or from our own coast, or both. This fact is generally supported in the following tabulation, arranged approximately in ascending order of altitude from the coast to the mountains. Christmas counts of 1960-61 and the present spring counts are compared:

Myrtle Warbler Distribution.

<i>Location</i>	<i>Christmas Count</i>	<i>Spring Count</i>
Charleston	464	2
Wilmington	304	185
Beaufort County	34	32
Aiken*	3	15
Eastover	6	8
Henderson	62	32
Raleigh	12	36
New London	1	64
Anderson	0	9
Clemson	37	99
Greensboro	8	170
Jefferson	0	7

* The Christmas and spring count areas were not identical but close together.

In the following details of the 1961 Spring counts, the more unusual species are shown in boldface type.

Aiken, S. C. (area within a 15-mile diameter circle centering approximately 7 miles east of the old town of Ellenton).—May 2; 7:30 AM to 7:00 PM. Cloudy to clear; temp. 59° to 77°. Seven observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 16; total party-miles, 166 (10 on foot, 156 by car). Pied-billed Grebe, 5; Great Blue Heron, 1; Little Blue Heron, 1; Mallard, 8; Wood Duck, 1; Turkey Vulture, 6; Black Vulture, 10; Mississippi Kite, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 8; Red-shouldered Hawk, 5; Osprey, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Bobwhite, 50; American Coot, 4; Killdeer, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 8; Solitary Sandpiper, 5; Sanderling, 3; Ring-billed Gull, 6; **Bonaparte's Gull**, 1; Forster's Tern, 1; Mourning Dove, 20; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 3; Chuck-will's-widow, 3; Common Nighthawk, 6; Chimney Swift, 12; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 5; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 5; Pileated Woodpecker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 6; Red-headed Woodpecker, 12; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Eastern Kingbird, 25; Great Crested Flycatcher, 12; Acadian Flycatcher, 4; **Trail's Flycatcher**, 1; Eastern Wood Pewee, 3; Rough-winged Swallow, 6; Barn Swallow, 2; Purple Martin, 12; Blue Jay, 15; Common Crow, 2; Fish Crow, 50; Carolina Chickadee, 6; Tufted Titmouse, 10; Carolina Wren, 20; Mockingbird, 20; Catbird, 10; Brown Thrasher, 2; Wood Thrush, 12; Swainson's Thrush, 12; Eastern Bluebird, 15; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 10; Cedar Waxwing, 15; Loggerhead Shrike, 2; Starling, 12; White-eyed Vireo, 40; Yellow-throated Vireo, 10; Red-eyed Vireo, 12; Black-and-white Warbler, 4; Prothonotary Warbler, 6; Swainson's Warbler, 1; Worm-eating Warbler, 1; **Golden-winged Warbler**, 1; Blue-winged Warbler, 1; Parula Warbler, 24; Yellow Warbler, 2; Magnolia Warbler, 1; Cape May Warbler, 2; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 12; Myrtle Warbler, 15; Yellow-throated Warbler, 3; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 1; Blackpoll Warbler, 1; Pine Warbler, 4; Prairie Warbler, 30; Palm Warbler, 8; Ovenbird, 4; Louisiana Waterthrush, 1; Kentucky Warbler, 4; Yellowthroat, 10; Yellow-breasted Chat, 10; Hooded Warbler, 25; American Redstart, 15; House Sparrow, 1; Eastern Meadowlark, 30; Redwinged Blackbird, 20; Orchard Oriole, 6; Common Grackle, 15; Scarlet Tanager, 3; Summer Tanager, 15; Cardinal, 25; Blue Grosbeak, 40; Indigo Bunting, 12; Painted Bunting, 6; American Goldfinch, 3; Rufous-sided Towhee, 6; Savannah Sparrow, 3; Bachman's Sparrow, 2; Chipping Sparrow, 4; Field Sparrow, 12; White-throated Sparrow, 6; Swamp Sparrow, 2. **Total species**, 104; **total individuals**, 963.—Dr. J. Fred Denton, Donald L. Funking, John B. Hatcher (compiler), Dr. J. H. Jenkins, Joseph Kight, Newton H. Seebeck, Jr., Robert F. Williams.

Anderson, S. C. (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, centering at Anderson Airport, including Hartwell Reservoir, backwaters and the city of Anderson; open fields and pasture 25%, deciduous woodland 20%, pine woodland 20%, mixed woodland 15%, ponds and creeks 10%, town 5%, Hartwell area 5%).—May 4; 4:30 AM to 7:00 PM. Partly cloudy, temp. 52° to 75°, wind ENE, 8 to 10 mph. Eight observers in four parties. Total party-hours, 58 (35 on foot, 23 by car). Total party-miles, 299 (32 on foot, 267 by car).—Green Heron, 2; Blue-winged Teal, 1; Turkey Vulture, 5; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 76; American Coot, 5; Killdeer, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 8; Solitary Sandpiper, 4; Greater Yellowlegs, 5; Lesser Yellowlegs, 1; Mourning Dove, 59; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 2; Black-billed Cuckoo, 1; Screech Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 2; Great Horned Owl, 1; Chuck-will's-widow, 25; Whip-poor-will, 2; Chimney Swift, 147; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 2; Belted Kingfisher, 5; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 19; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 8; Red-headed Woodpecker, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Eastern Kingbird, 20; Great Crested Flycatcher, 2; Eastern Phoebe, 10; Acadian Flycatcher, 5; Eastern Wood Pewee, 3; Tree Swallow, 7; Rough-winged Swallow, 21; Barn Swallow, 9; Blue Jay, 81; Common Crow, 50; Carolina Chickadee, 4; Tufted Titmouse, 15; White-breasted Nuthatch, 9; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 7; Carolina Wren, 6; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 2; Mockingbird, 55; Catbird, 12; Brown Thrasher, 28; Robin, 76; Wood Thrush, 30; Veery, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 6; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 2; Cedar Waxwing, 50; Loggerhead Shrike, 28; Starling, 104; White-eyed Vireo, 20; Red-eyed Vireo, 9; Parula Warbler, 1; Yellow Warb-

ler, 5; Magnolia Warbler, 6; Cape May Warbler, 2; Myrtle Warbler, 9; Black-throated Green Warbler, 3; Blackburnian Warbler, 2; Yellow-throated Warbler, 1; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 1; Blackpoll Warbler, 7; Pine Warbler, 1; Prairie Warbler, 1; Yellowthroat, 24; Yellow-breasted Chat, 5; Hooded Warbler, 7; House Sparrow, 250; Bobolink, 221; Redwinged Blackbird, 68; Orchard Oriole, 9; Baltimore Oriole, 2; Rusty Blackbird, 1; Common Grackle, 124; Eastern Meadowlark, 235; Brown-headed Cowbird, 2; Scarlet Tanager, 3; Summer Tanager, 6; Cardinal, 59; Blue Grosbeak, 14; Indigo Bunting, 98; American Goldfinch, 16; Rufous-sided Towhee, 31; Savannah Sparrow, 51; Grasshopper Sparrow, 10; Slate-colored Junco, 2; Chipping Sparrow, 39; Field Sparrow, 53; **White-crowned Sparrow**, 1; White-throated Sparrow, 6. **Total species**, 97; **total individuals**, 2515. The White-crowned Sparrow was present at a yard feeder, May 1 through 4.—Mrs. Helen Kendall, Mrs. Karl Nicholas, Miss Bitsy Ramseur, Mrs. Vivian Smith, Mrs. R. C. Tedards (compiler), R. C. Tedards, Douglas Tedards.

Central Beaufort County, N. C. (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle centering where Upper Goose Creek enters Pamlico River, including both sides of the river from Bath to Washington; river and river shore 15%, fields 30%, mixed woods 45%, pine woods 5%, feeders 5%).—Apr. 29; 5 AM to 7 PM. Windy, partly cloudy all day; temp. 44° to 64°; wind W to NW, 10-20 mph. Eight observers (one part-time) in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 35 (15 on foot, 20 by car); **total party-miles**, 229 (13 on foot, 216 by car).—Double-crested Cormorant, 117; Great Blue Heron, 3; Mallard, 4; Black Duck, 2; Blue-winged Teal, 2; **Oldsquaw**, 1; Red-breasted Merganser, 3; Turkey Vulture, 2; Black Vulture, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Osprey, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 34; Spotted Sandpiper, 14; Greater Yellowlegs, 1; Lesser Yellowlegs, 2; Least Sandpiper, 7; Herring Gull, 22; Ring-billed Gull, 576; Laughing Gull, 164; **Bonaparte's Gull**, 1; **Common Tern**, 4; Mourning Dove, 37; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 2; Chimney Swift, 95; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 5; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 15; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 5; Red-headed Woodpecker, 20; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 8; Eastern Kingbird, 26; Great Crested Flycatcher, 25; Eastern Wood Pewee, 12; Tree Swallow, 137; Rough-winged Swallow, 8; Barn Swallow, 126; Purple Martin, 73; Blue Jay, 53; Common Crow, 45; Fish Crow, 8; Carolina Chickadee, 18; Tufted Titmouse, 23; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 10; Carolina Wren, 20; Mockingbird, 26; Catbird, 7; Brown Thrasher, 24; Robin, 1; Wood Thrush, 3; Eastern Bluebird, 4; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 8; Loggerhead Shrike, 7; Starling, 34; White-eyed Vireo, 23; Yellow-throated Vireo, 1; Red-eyed Vireo, 22; Black-and-white Warbler, 5; Prothonotary Warbler, 10; **Blue-winged Warbler**, 1; Parula Warbler, 28; Yellow Warbler, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 32; Yellow-throated Warbler, 6; Pine Warbler, 13; Prairie Warbler, 34; Ovenbird, 6; Yellowthroat, 12; Hooded Warbler, 15; House Sparrow, 51; Eastern Meadowlark, 4; Redwinged Blackbird, 13; Orchard Oriole, 20; Common Grackle, 105; Summer Tanager, 19; Cardinal, 85; Blue Grosbeak, 2; Indigo Bunting, 3; Rufous-sided Towhee, 24; Savannah Sparrow, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 1; Chipping Sparrow, 17; Field Sparrow, 2; White-throated Sparrow, 17. **Total species**, 87; **total individuals**, about 2440. In the area, Apr. 24 to Apr. 30 but not on count day: American Coot, Chuck-will's-widow, Whip-poor-will, Worm-eating Warbler.—Elizabeth Ball, Ethel Barclay, Ruth Brown, Phyllis Carver, Geraldine Cox (compiler), Mabel Godley, Mary McLaurin, Christine Wilton.

Chapel Hill, N. C. (area not indicated but assumed to be same as in previous counts).—Apr. 30; hours not shown. Fair and cool. Twenty-six observers; party data not shown.—Great Blue Heron, 1; Green Heron, 2; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 2; Wood Duck, 2; Turkey Vulture, 42; Black Vulture, 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 3; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 10; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Osprey, 2; Bobwhite, 125; Turkey, 1; Killdeer, 2; Common Snipe, 1; Upland Plover, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 11; Solitary Sandpiper, 3; Mourning Dove, 157; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 2; Great Horned Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 2; Whip-poor-will, 2; Chimney Swift, 110; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 21; Belted Kingfisher, 7; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 29; Pileated

Woodpecker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 44; Red-headed Woodpecker, 15; Hairy Woodpecker, 8; Downy Woodpecker, 30; Eastern Kingbird, 66; Great Crested Flycatcher, 28; Eastern Phoebe, 21; Acadian Flycatcher, 23; Eastern Wood Pewee, 37; Tree Swallow, 20; Rough-winged Swallow, 8; Barn Swallow, 36; Purple Martin, 40; Blue Jay, 149; Common Crow, 117; Carolina Chickadee, 66; Tufted Titmouse, 50; White-breasted Nuthatch, 23; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 10; House Wren, 1; Winter Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 42; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 113; Catbird, 28; Brown Thrasher, 38; Robin, 181; Wood Thrush, 96; Swainson's Thrush, 4; Veery, 4; Eastern Bluebird, 35; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 44; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 12; Cedar Waxwing, 88; Loggerhead Shrike, 5; Starling, 82; White-eyed Vireo, 18; Yellow-throated Vireo, 16; Solitary Vireo, 2; Red-eyed Vireo, 76; Philadelphia Vireo, 1; Warbling Vireo, 2; Black-and-white Warbler, 4; Prothonotary Warbler, 3; Blue-winged Warbler, 2; Tennessee Warbler, 1; Parula Warbler, 17; Yellow Warbler, 3; Magnolia Warbler, 1; Cape May Warbler, 6; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 12; Myrtle Warbler, 121; Black-throated Green Warbler, 1; Yellow-throated Warbler, 30; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 3; Pine Warbler, 21; Prairie Warbler, 47; Ovenbird, 26; Northern Waterthrush, 1; Louisiana Waterthrush, 10; Kentucky Warbler, 11; Yellowthroat, 23; Yellow-breasted Chat, 39; Hooded Warbler, 20; American Redstart, 43; House Sparrow, 49; Eastern Meadowlark, 67; Redwinged Blackbird, 52; Orchard Oriole, 12; Baltimore Oriole, 4; Common Grackle, 1; Brown-headed Cowbird, 13; Scarlet Tanager, 32; Summer Tanager, 44; Cardinal, 235; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 3; Blue Grosbeak, 22; Indigo Bunting, 43; American Goldfinch, 160; Rufous-sided Towhee, 41; Savannah Sparrow, 3; Grasshopper Sparrow, 4; Henslow's Sparrow, 1; Chipping Sparrow, 136; Field Sparrow, 23; White-throated Sparrow, 133; Song Sparrow, 12. Total species, 116; total individuals, 3738.—I. Allison, Maurice Barnhill, Mrs. R. P. Bond, Roy M. Brown, Louise Crum-packer, L. Gault, Dr. and Mrs. Francis Harper, Mr. and Mrs. Logan Irvin, Stella Lyons, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald R. MacCarthy, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Patterson, Lyman A. Ripperton, W. B. Sanders, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Sharpe, Mrs. Pearson Stewart, Mrs. R. E. Stipe, Mr. and Mrs. Matt Thompson, Mrs. Harold Walters, Mrs. F. R. Weedon, Frances Yocum.

Charleston, S. C. (Christmas Count area, centering on U. S. Highway 17, 14½ miles N. of Mt. Pleasant. Includes most of Bull's Island, the adjacent waters and marshes, and the opposite mainland back beyond the Wando River, as in preceding years).—May 6, 6:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Clear; temp. 66° to 78°; wind SE, light. Eighteen observers in five parties. Total party-hours, 40 (32 on foot, 6½ by car, 1½ by boat); total party miles, 135 (22 on foot, 108 by car, 5 by boat). Red-throated Loon, 1; Pied-billed Grebe, 15; Brown Pelican, 17; Double-crested Cormorant, 5; Anhinga, 57; Great Blue Heron, 9; Green Heron, 13; Little Blue Heron, 28; Cattle Egret, 50, (ca.); Common Egret, 34; Snowy Egret, 25; Louisiana Heron, 30; Black-crowned Night Heron, 3; Least Bittern, 5; White Ibis, 14; Blue-winged Teal, 12; Wood Duck, 2; Lesser Scaup, 2; Ruddy Duck, 3; Turkey Vulture, 37; Black Vulture, 36; Mississippi Kite, 3; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 7; Bald Eagle, 2; Osprey, 6; Bobwhite, 36; Turkey, 11; Clapper Rail, 4; Purple Gallinule, 3; Common Gallinule, 52; American Coot, 150; Semipalmated Plover, 111; Wilson's Plover, 3; Killdeer, 1; Black-bellied Plover, 24; Ruddy Turnstone, 20; Whimbrel, 57; Spotted Sandpiper, 2; Solitary Sandpiper, 1; Willet, 13; Greater Yellowlegs, 10; Lesser Yellowlegs, 2; Least Sandpiper, 20; Dunlin, 122; Short-billed Dowitcher, 15; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 20; Western Sandpiper, 20; Sanderling, 1; Herring Gull, 15; Ring-billed Gull, 26; Laughing Gull, 89; Forster's Tern, 4; Least Tern, 23; Royal Tern, 8; Black Skimmer, 26; Mourning Dove, 24; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 56; Common Nighthawk, 3; Chimney Swift, 51; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 9; Belted Kingfisher, 5; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 32; Pileated Woodpecker, 25; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 23; Red-headed Woodpecker, 17; Hairy Woodpecker, 7; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Red-cockaded Woodpecker, 15; Eastern Kingbird, 53; Great Crested Flycatcher, 160; Acadian Flycatcher, 32; Eastern Wood Pewee, 32; Tree Swallow, 140; Barn Swallow, 20; Purple Martin,

104; Blue Jay, 51; Common Crow, 62; Fish Crow, 6; Carolina Chickadee, 27; Tufted Titmouse, 48; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 37; Carolina Wren, 44; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 19; Catbird, 2; Brown Thrasher, 15; Robin, 1; Wood Thrush, 1; Veery, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 17; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 37; Cedar Waxwing, 19; Loggerhead Shrike, 4; Starling, 29; White-eye Vireo, 88; Yellow-throated Vireo, 7; Red-eyed Vireo, 83; Prothonotary Warbler, 24; Swainson's Warbler, 1; **Bachman's Warbler**, 1; **Tennessee Warbler**, 1 (ISHM, ECC); Parula Warbler, 153; Yellow Warbler, 3; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 2; Myrtle Warbler, 2; Yellow-throated Warbler, 77; Pine Warbler, 115; Prairie Warbler, 58; Kentucky Warbler, 8; Yellowthroat, 10; Yellow-breasted Chat, 29; Hooded Warbler, 61; American Redstart, 1, female (RDE); House Sparrow, 12; Bobolink, 12; Eastern Meadowlark, 43; Redwinged Blackbird, 112; Orchard Oriole, 26; Boat-tailed Grackle, 47; Common Grackle, 36; **Scarlet Tanager**, 3 (MDR, FBs *et al.*); Summer Tanager, 61; Cardinal, 61; Blue Grosbeak, 3; Indigo Bunting, 19; Painted Bunting, 54; Rufous-sided Towhee, 12; Savannah Sparrow, 14; Seaside Sparrow, 1; Vesper Sparrow, 1; Bachman's Sparrow, 3; Chipping Sparrow, 30; Field Sparrow, 6; Song Sparrow, 1. **Total**, 135 species, 3823 individuals. The single Bachman's Warbler had been present almost continuously since March 19. The Scarlet Tanagers were unusual. Two were included in last year's spring count.—R. A. Baker, Mr. & Mrs. Francis Barrington, T. A. Beckett, III, B. Rhett Chamberlain (compiler), E. C. Clyde, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Coleman, R. H. Coleman, Jr., Edmund Cuthbert, Jr., Ernest Cutts, J. H. Dick, R. D. Edwards, Mrs. John Leland, I. S. H. Metcalf, Mrs. M. D. Richardson, Miss Elizabeth Simons, A. M. Wilcox. (Charleston Natural History Society).

Charlotte, N. C. (7½ mile radius centering at 7th Street and Briar Creek; open fields and farmland 50%, deciduous-pine woods and edge 30%, city lawns 15%, lakes and ponds 5%.) May 6; 5:30 AM to 9:30 PM. Partly cloudy; temp. 51° to 70°; wind NNE, 0-13 mph. Twelve observers in 5 parties. Total party hours, 43 (30 on foot, 13 by car); total party miles, 176 (16 on foot, 160 by car). Green Heron, 6; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 1; American Bittern, 1; Wood Duck, 1; Turkey Vulture, 5; Black Vulture, 3; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Broad-winged Hawk, 3; Bobwhite, 49; Killdeer, 5; Spotted Sandpiper, 7; Solitary Sandpiper, 4; Ring-billed Gull, 2; **Black Tern**, 1; Mourning Dove, 213; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 2; Black-billed Cuckoo, 1; Barred Owl, 2; Chuck-will's-widow, 1; Whip-poor-will, 11; Common Nighthawk, 34; Chimney Swift, 113; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 5; Belted Kingfisher, 6; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 24; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 21; Red-headed Woodpecker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 21; Eastern Kingbird, 21; Great Crested Flycatcher, 32; Eastern Phoebe, 9; Acadian Flycatcher, 7; Eastern Wood Pewee, 19; Horned Lark, 2; Rough-winged Swallow, 13; Barn Swallow, 1; Purple Martin, 8; Blue Jay, 157; Common Crow, 48; Carolina Chickadee, 27; Tufted Titmouse, 24; White-breasted Nuthatch, 8; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 14; House Wren, 14; Carolina Wren, 21; Mockingbird, 105; Catbird, 38; Brown Thrasher, 45; Robin, 183; Wood Thrush, 92; Swainson's Thrush, 24; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 1; Veery, 14; Eastern Bluebird, 18; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 5; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Water Pipit, 7; Cedar Waxwing, 22; Loggerhead Shrike, 15; Starling, 273; White-eyed Vireo, 10; Yellow-throated Vireo, 13; Red-eyed Vireo, 72; **Warbling Vireo**, 2; Black-and-white Warbler, 8; Worm-eating Warbler, 2; Blue-winged Warbler, 2; Parula Warbler, 23; Yellow Warbler, 5; Magnolia Warbler, 3; Cape May Warbler, 8; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 33; Myrtle Warbler, 42; Yellow-throated Warbler, 1; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 10; Blackpoll Warbler, 13; Pine Warbler, 5; Prairie Warbler, 15; Ovenbird, 59; Northern Waterthrush, 4; Louisiana Waterthrush, 2; Yellowthroat, 48; Yellow-breasted Chat, 22; Hooded Warbler, 7; Canada Warbler, 4; American Redstart, 35; House Sparrow, 211; Bobolink, 225; Eastern Meadowlark, 85; Redwinged Blackbird, 72; Orchard Oriole, 7; Baltimore Oriole, 3; Rusty Blackbird, 8; Common Grackle, 142; Brown-headed Cowbird, 21; **Scarlet Tanager**, 10; Summer Tanager, 15; Cardinal, 153; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1; Blue Grosbeak, 22; Indigo Bunting, 38;

American Goldfinch, 166; Rufous-sided Towhee, 99; Savannah Sparrow, 7; Grasshopper Sparrow, 5; Henslow's Sparrow, 2; Chipping Sparrow, 31; Field Sparrow, 61; White-throated Sparrow, 40; Song Sparrow, 15. **Total**, 112 species, about 3705 individuals. Mrs. M. J. Barber, Dr. and Mrs. W. G. Cobey, Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson, J. P. Hamilton, Lee Jones, Julian Meadows, Miss Sarah Nooe, Joseph R. Norwood (compiler), Mrs. Joseph R. Norwood, Mrs. George Potter, Mrs. E. J. Presser, Frank Ramsey, William Smith. (Notes: Some of the above were part-time participants and were not officially counted. This outstanding count for the Charlotte area was sparked by the hard and careful field work of Lee Jones, aided by Frank Ramsey and Julian Meadows; previous high count for Charlotte was 83).

Clemson, S. C. (same area as in Christmas Count, all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center on Southern Railroad Station in Clemson). April 29; 4 AM to 7:20 PM. Clear; temp. 40° to 72°; wind SSE, 0-12 mph. Twelve observers in five parties plus four at feeding stations. Total party-hours, 53 (38 on foot, 15 by car); total party-miles, 318 (27 on foot, 291 by car). Green Heron, 7; Mallard, 2; Turkey Vulture, 16; Black Vulture, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 5; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Broad-winged Hawk, 4; Bobwhite, 9; Turkey, 1; Killdeer, 3; Common Snipe, 5; Spotted Sandpiper, 8; Solitary Sandpiper, 16; Greater Yellowlegs, 1; Pectoral Sandpiper, 1; Mourning Dove, 72; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 3; Great Horned Owl, 2; Barred Owl, 3; Screech Owl, 3; Chuck-will's-widow, 5; Whip-poor-will, 2; Chimney Swift, 142; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 5; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 21; Pileated Woodpecker, 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 16; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 14; Eastern Kingbird, 5; Great Crested Flycatcher, 21; Eastern Phoebe, 6; Acadian Flycatcher, 9; Eastern Wood Pewee, 11; Rough-winged Swallow, 44; Barn Swallow, 6; Cliff Swallow, 3; Purple Martin, 7; Blue Jay, 134; Common Crow, 115; Carolina Chickadee, 27; Tufted Titmouse, 76; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 12; Carolina Wren, 14; Mockingbird, 80; Catbird, 35; Brown Thrasher, 61; Robin, 91; Wood Thrush, 68; Hermit Thrush, 1; Swainson's Thrush, 8; Eastern Bluebird, 25; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 23; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 3; Cedar Waxwing, 8; Loggerhead Shrike, 9; Starling, 125; White-eyed Vireo, 35; Yellow-throated Vireo, 7; Solitary Vireo, 4; Red-eyed Vireo, 48; Philadelphia Vireo, 3 (RCT); Black-and-white Warbler, 10; Prothonotary Warbler, 2; Swainson's Warbler, 4; Worm-eating Warbler, 3; **Golden-winged Warbler**, 2; Blue-winged Warbler, 1; Tennessee Warbler, 6; Parula Warbler, 2; Yellow Warbler, 17; Magnolia Warbler, 1; Cape May Warbler, 24; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 2; Myrtle Warbler, 99; Black-throated Green Warbler, 1; **Cerulean Warbler**, 2; Blackburnian Warbler, 1; Yellow-throated Warbler, 10; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 12; Blackpoll Warbler, 2; Pine Warbler, 9; Prairie Warbler, 27; Palm Warbler, 1; Ovenbird, 7; Northern Waterthrush, 2; Louisiana Waterthrush, 1; Kentucky Warbler, 3; Yellowthroat, 20; Yellow-breasted Chat, 38; Hooded Warbler, 6; Canada Warbler, 5; American Redstart, 19; House Sparrow, 145; Bobolink, 1; Eastern Meadowlark, 102; Redwinged Blackbird, 75; Orchard Oriole, 4; **Baltimore Oriole**, 3; Common Grackle, 141; Brown-headed Cowbird, 59; Scarlet Tanager, 14; Summer Tanager, 9; Cardinal 151; **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, 5; Blue Grosbeak, 14; Indigo Bunting, 88; American Goldfinch, 137; Rufous-sided Towhee, 106; Savannah Sparrow, 34; Grasshopper Sparrow, 3; Bachman's Sparrow, 3; Slate-colored Junco, 5; Chipping Sparrow, 124; Field Sparrow, 37; White-throated Sparrow, 77; Song Sparrow, 2. **Total**, 122 species; 3,193 individuals.—Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Baasel, Mrs. Frances Brandt, Mr. and Mrs. Gaston Gage, Mrs. Orris Frazee, Mrs. Marlene Hammet, Mrs. Polly Lowry, R. H. Peake, Jr. (compiler), Mrs. Elizabeth Polk, D. I. Purser, Mrs. Mabel Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Tedards, R. E. Ware, Mrs. Carolina Watson.

Eastover, S. C. (same area as in Christmas Counts, center at Eastover).—May 2; 6:00 AM until dark. Cloudy, mild, clearing slowly and cooler. Wind, N to NW, 12-15 mph. Total party-miles about 50; total party-hours about

26.—Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Wood Duck, 2; Turkey Vulture, 1; Black Vulture, 3; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 11; Common Snipe, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 3; Greater Yellowlegs, 1; Lesser Yellowlegs, 3; Least Sandpiper, 4; Mourning Dove, 21; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1; Chimney Swift, 39; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Eastern Kingbird, 32; Great Crested Flycatcher, 2; Acadian Flycatcher, 2; Eastern Wood Pewee, 4; Tree Swallow, 75; Rough-winged Swallow, 19; Purple Martin, 10; Blue Jay, 11; Common Crow, 5; Carolina Chickadee, 4; Tufted Titmouse, 2; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 2; Carolina Wren, 10; Mockingbird, 11; Catbird, 5; Brown Thrasher, 7; Wood Thrush, 5; Swainson's Thrush, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 5; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 4; Loggerhead Shrike, 5; Starling, 6; White-eyed Vireo, 5; Yellow-throated Vireo, 2; Red-eyed Vireo, 6; Black-and-white Warbler, 2; Prothonotary Warbler, 2; Parula Warbler, 8; Cape May Warbler, 1; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 4; Myrtle Warbler, 8; Yellow-throated Warbler, 2; Pine Warbler, 1; Prairie Warbler, 9; Yellowthroat, 11; Yellow-breasted Chat, 2; Hooded Warbler, 5; American Redstart, 3; House Sparrow, 175; Bobolink, 333; Eastern Meadowlark, 8; Redwinged Blackbird, 8; Orchard Oriole, 11; Baltimore Oriole, 1; Rusty Blackbird, 15; Common Grackle, 10; Scarlet Tanager, 1; Summer Tanager, 6; Cardinal, 26; Blue Grosbeak, 19; Indigo Bunting, 7; American Goldfinch, 50; Rufous-sided Towhee, 7; Savannah Sparrow, 3; Chipping Sparrow, 1; Field Sparrow, 6; White-throated Sparrow, 18; Swamp Sparrow, 1. Total species, 76; total individuals, 1105. (Seen in the area count period but not on count day: Osprey, 2; Killdeer, 1; Chuck-will's-widow, 1, heard; Ovenbird, 5; Painted Bunting, 2.—W. H. Faver, Mrs. W. H. Faver (compiler), Mrs. Charles Prather, Mrs. Clyde Sisson, Vivian Wiener.

Fayetteville, N. C. (area, $7\frac{1}{2}$ mi. radius, centering just north of city on Raleigh Road, deciduous-pine woods, lakes and ponds, open field and farm land, city lawns). May 7, 5 AM to 7 PM. Hot and sunny, trace of rain at noon; temp. 65° to 83° . Fifteen observers in eight party groups (individuals shifted ranks). Total party hours, 60; total individual hours, 116; total party miles, 121 (car, 105; foot, 16).—Green Heron, 8; Mallard, 5; Wood Duck, 12; Turkey Vulture, 1; Black Vulture, 3; Red-tailed Hawk, 9; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 3; Bobwhite, 77; Killdeer, 3; Spotted Sandpiper, 10; Solitary Sandpiper, 7; Greater Yellowlegs, 1; Lesser Yellowlegs, 1; Sanderling, 1; Mourning Dove, 142; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 3; Barred Owl, 3; Whip-poor-will, 1; Chuck-will's-widow, 1; Common Night-hawk, 5; Chimney Swift, 85; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 5; Kingfisher, 7; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 40; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 35; Red-headed Woodpecker, 17; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 15; Red-cockaded Woodpecker, 6; Eastern Kingbird, 193; Great Crested Flycatcher, 49; Acadian Flycatcher, 11; Eastern Wood Pewee, 42; Rough-winged Swallow, 36; Barn Swallow, 3; Purple Martin, 20; Blue Jay, 184; Common Crow, 77; Carolina Chickadee, 15; Tufted Titmouse, 107; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 21; Carolina Wren, 34; Mockingbird, 188; Catbird, 57; Brown Thrasher, 118; Robin, 58; Wood Thrush, 46; Swainson's Thrush, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 7; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 24; Cedar Waxwing, 107; Loggerhead Shrike, 29; Starling, 185; White-eyed Vireo, 9; Yellow-throated Vireo, 18; Red-eyed Vireo, 135; Black-and-white Warbler, 17; Prothonotary Warbler, 11; Blue-winged Warbler, 1; Parula Warbler, 92; Yellow Warbler, 5; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 24; Myrtle Warbler, 27; Yellow-throated Warbler, 1; Black-poll Warbler, 39; Pine Warbler, 10; Prairie Warbler, 12; Ovenbird, 4; Northern Waterthrush, 1; Louisiana Waterthrush, 6; Kentucky Warbler, 2; Yellowthroat, 89; Yellow-breasted Chat, 7; Hooded Warbler, 25; American Redstart, 17; House Sparrow, 120; Eastern Meadowlark, 84; Red-winged Blackbird, 228; Orchard Oriole, 27; Baltimore Oriole, 3; Rusty Blackbird, 11; Common Grackle, 68; Brown-headed Cowbird, 2; Scarlet Tanager, 5; Summer Tanager, 49; Cardinal, 230; Blue Grosbeak, 38; Indigo Bunting, 33; Rufous-sided Towhee, 62, (both white-eyed and red-eyed); Chipping Sparrow, 16; Field Sparrow, 21; White-throated Sparrow, 33; Song Sparrow, 1. Total species, 96; total individuals, 3835.—Mrs. L. E.

Whitfield, Mrs. F. G. Everett, Mrs. J. S. Pittman; Miss Catsie Huske, Mrs. J. A. Shaw, Henry Rankin, Mrs. Chester Williams, Mrs. Jonathan Courtney, Miss Helen McGeachey, Mrs. Neill Currie, Jr., Mrs. Charles T. Haigh, Mrs. S. C. Rankin, Mrs. Charles T. Haigh, Jr., Claude Rankin, Mrs. Roscoe Hauser, Jr. (compiler).

Greensboro, N. C. (area same as in Christmas Counts, centering $\frac{1}{2}$ mile SW of WBIG transmitter).—May 6; 6:00 AM to 6:30 PM. Cloudy to clear; temp. 48° to 72°; wind SSW, 5-10 mph. Twenty-four observers; party data not given.—Common Loon, 4; Pied-billed Grebe, 5; Great Blue Heron, 1; Green Heron, 12; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 12; American Bittern, 4; Least Bittern, 1; Mallard, 5; Black Duck, 2; Blue-winged Teal, 2; Wood Duck, 10; Ring-necked Duck, 2; Turkey Vulture, 10; Black Vulture, 5; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Red-shouldered Hawk, 5; Broad-winged Hawk, 4; Marsh Hawk, 1; Osprey, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Bobwhite, 58; Turkey, 2; Virginia Rail, 2; Sora, 1; American Coot, 13; Killdeer, 4; American Woodcock, 4; Common Snipe, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 60; Solitary Sandpiper, 37; Greater Yellowlegs, 4; Lesser Yellowlegs, 9; Least Sandpiper, 101; Dunlin, 1; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 5; Western Sandpiper, 50; Ring-billed Gull, 103; Bonaparte's Gull, 1; Mourning Dove, 178; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 9; Screech Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 2; Whip-poor-will, 5; Common Nighthawk, 10; Chimney Swift, 695; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 21; Belted Kingfisher, 5; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 56; Pileated Woodpecker, 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 46; Red-headed Woodpecker, 16; Hairy Woodpecker, 9; Downy Woodpecker, 29; Eastern Kingbird, 83; Great Crested Flycatcher, 54; Eastern Phoebe, 40; Acadian Flycatcher, 19; Least Flycatcher, 3; Eastern Wood Pewee, 38; Horned Lark, 3; Tree Swallow, 561; Bank Swallow, 504; Rough-winged Swallow, 80; Barn Swallow, 730; Cliff Swallow, 45; Purple Martin, 300; Blue Jay, 241; Common Crow, 117; Carolina Chickadee, 111; Tufted Titmouse, 98; White-breasted Nuthatch, 23; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 12; House Wren, 21; Carolina Wren, 38; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 196; Catbird, 113; Brown Thrasher, 98; Robin, 293; Wood Thrush, 179; Swainson's Thrush, 118; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 2; Veery, 7; Bluebird, 21; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 45; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Cedar Waxwing, 31; Loggerhead Shrike, 42; Starling, 694; White-eyed Vireo, 37; Yellow-throated Vireo, 44; Solitary Vireo, 3; Red-eyed Vireo, 148; Black-and-white Warbler, 13; Prothonotary Warbler, 4; Worm-eating Warbler, 2; Golden-winged Warbler, 3; Tennessee Warbler, 1; Parula Warbler, 31; Yellow Warbler, 42; Magnolia Warbler, 1; Cape May Warbler, 12; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 14; Myrtle Warbler, 170; Black-throated Green Warbler, 3; Cerulean Warbler, 1; Yellow-throated Warbler, 21; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 10; Bay-breasted Warbler, 1; Blackpoll Warbler, 5; Pine Warbler, 9; Prairie Warbler, 39; Palm Warbler, 1; Ovenbird, 56; Northern Waterthrush, 4; Louisiana Waterthrush, 5; Kentucky Warbler, 3; Yellowthroat, 115; Yellow-breasted Chat, 33; Hooded Warbler, 45; Canada Warbler, 2; American Redstart, 91; House Sparrow, 443; Bobolink, 785; Eastern Meadowlark, 179; Redwinged Blackbird, 478; Orchard Oriole, 14; Baltimore Oriole, 8; Rusty Blackbird, 21; Common Grackle, 226; Brown-headed Cowbird, 111; Scarlet Tanager, 26; Summer Tanager, 39; Cardinal, 195; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 4; Blue Grosbeak, 21; Indigo Bunting, 134; Purple Finch, 56; American Goldfinch, 302; Rufous-sided Towhee, 179; Savannah Sparrow, 16; Grasshopper Sparrow, 17; Bachman's Sparrow, 2; Chipping Sparrow, 126; Field Sparrow, 45; White-throated Sparrow, 130; Swamp Sparrow, 19; Song Sparrow, 42. Total species, 148; total individuals, 11,153.—Inez Coldwell, Larry Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Daniels, Charlotte Dawley, Brad Hawkins, Mrs. W. S. Holmes, Sidney Holmes, Robert Lasley, Ethel McNairy, James Mattocks, Ida Mitchell, Charles Moody, Elizabeth Ogburn, Mr. and Mrs. George Perrett, Mr. and Mrs. C. I. Reed, Etta Schiffman, George A. Smith (compiler), Jane Stam, Thomas Street, Bertha Swart, Daphne Weisner.

Henderson, N. C. (area same as in all recent spring counts).—May 1; 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM—due to storm. Fair until about 2:30 PM. Temp. 63° to 79°. Light wind. Three observers in two parties.—Turkey Vulture, 3;

Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Bobwhite, 17; Spotted Sandpiper, 4; Solitary Sandpiper, 1; Mourning Dove, 42; Chimney Swift, 9; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 8; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Red-headed Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Eastern Kingbird, 19; Great Crested Flycatcher, 5; Eastern Phoebe, 4; Acadian Flycatcher, 3; Eastern Wood Pewee, 3; Barn Swallow, 11; Blue Jay, 17; Common Crow, 21; Carolina Chickadee, 15; Tufted Titmouse, 11; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 4; House Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 6; Mockingbird, 32; Catbird, 10; Brown Thrasher, 4; Robin, 26; Wood Thrush, 6; Eastern Bluebird, 5; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 11; Loggerhead Shrike, 2; Starling, 33; White-eyed Vireo, 6; Yellow-throated Vireo, 3; Red-eyed Vireo, 32; Black-and-white Warbler, 1; Parula Warbler, 10; Magnolia Warbler, 2; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 3; Myrtle Warbler, 32; Blackburnian Warbler, 1; Yellow-throated Warbler, 4; Pine Warbler, 11; Prairie Warbler, 25; Ovenbird, 19; Louisiana Waterthrush, 2; Kentucky Warbler, 4; Yellowthroat, 5; Yellow-breasted Chat, 14; Hooded Warbler, 9; American Redstart, 20; House Sparrow, 45; Bobolink, 4; Eastern Meadowlark, 67; Red-winged Blackbird, 53; Orchard Oriole, 2; Common Grackle, 9; Scarlet Tanager, 10; Summer Tanager, 5; Cardinal, 16; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 7; Indigo Bunting, 9; American Goldfinch, 8; Rufous-sided Towhee, 16; Savannah Sparrow, 2; Chipping Sparrow, 46; Field Sparrow, 18; **White-crowned Sparrow**, 1; White-throated Sparrow, 19. **Total species**, 73; **total individuals**, 883. (Seen in the area, Apr. 29, but not on count day: Green Heron, 1; Black Vulture, 2; Osprey, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Tree Swallow, 13; Rough-winged Swallow, 17; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 40; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Palm Warbler, 2; Canada Warbler, 1 and 1 again, May 7; Baltimore Oriole, 1; Blue Grosbeak, 1).—Mrs. A. W. Bachman (compiler,) Miss Mariel Gary, E. L. Waddill.

Jefferson, N. C. (area centers at Hurt's farmhouse in Nathan's Creek community as in former years).—May 7; 6:30 AM to 5:30 PM. Clear; temp. 60° to 65°. Nine observers in two, three, and four parties. Total party-hours, 17 (15½ on foot, 1½ by car); total party-miles, 40 (17 on foot, 23 by car).—Pied-billed Grebe, 6; Turkey Vulture, 3; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Mourning Dove, 3; Whip-poor-will, 4; Chimney Swift, 64; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 3; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 11; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Eastern Kingbird, 6; Great Crested Flycatcher, 10; Eastern Phoebe, 6; **Least Flycatcher**, 11; Eastern Wood Pewee, 9; Barn Swallow, 26; Blue Jay, 8; Common Crow, 40; Carolina Chickadee, 3; Tufted Titmouse, 9; White-breasted Nuthatch, 9; House Wren, 14; Bewick's Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 7; Mockingbird, 2; Catbird, 41; Brown Thrasher, 9; Robin, 16; Wood Thrush, 3; Hermit Thrush, 5; Swainson's Thrush, 2; Eastern Bluebird, 8; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 7; Starling, 27; Yellow-throated Vireo, 5; Red-eyed Vireo, 2; Black-and-white Warbler, 16; Parula Warbler, 3; Yellow Warbler, 11; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 4; Myrtle Warbler, 7; Blackburnian Warbler, 2; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 12; Ovenbird, 14; Yellowthroat, 8; Yellow-breasted Chat, 10; Hooded Warbler, 3; **Wilson's Warbler**, (ABH), 1; Canada Warbler, 1; American Redstart, 10; House Sparrow, 30; Eastern Meadowlark, 10; Red-winged Blackbird, 24; Orchard Oriole, 2; Baltimore Oriole, 9; Common Grackle, 18; Brown-headed Cowbird, 7; Scarlet Tanager, 6; Cardinal, 48; Indigo Bunting, 25; American Goldfinch, 35; Rufous-sided Towhee, 40; Vesper Sparrow, 1; Chipping Sparrow, 29; Field Sparrow, 7; White-throated Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 25. **Total species**, 69; **total individuals**, 811 (seen in area, not on count day: May 1, Broad-winged Hawk; May 4, Bobolink, 50; May 6 and 8, Great Blue Heron; May 8, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 3; May 14, **Least Bittern**).—Bettie Jane Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Phil Eckman, Mrs. A. Burman Hurt (compiler), Mrs. Beulah Kiser, David Kiser, Alice Lyall, Gorden McWilliams, Mike Welch.

Lenoir, N. C. (area same as in previous counts).—Apr. 29; 5:30 AM to 9:30 PM. Fair, wind 10 to 20 mph. Eighteen observers—party data not given.—Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Green Heron, 3; Blue-winged Teal, 9; Turkey Vulture, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Broad-winged Hawk,

1; Bald Eagle, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 14; **Sora**, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 3; Solitary Sandpiper, 1; Greater Yellowlegs, 4; Lesser Yellowlegs, 1; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 1; Mourning Dove, 50 (or more); Whip-poor-will, 12; Chimney Swift, 15; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 6; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 6; Pileated Woodpecker, 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Eastern Kingbird, 3; Great Crested Flycatcher, 2; Eastern Phoebe, 2; Acadian Flycatcher, 1; Eastern Wood Pewee, 2; Horned Lark, 1; Tree Swallow, 5; Rough-winged Swallow, 15; Barn Swallow, 12; **Cliff Swallow**, 1; Purple Martin, 2; Blue Jay, 33; Common Crow, 15; Carolina Chickadee, 24; Tufted Titmouse, 27; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 1; House Wren, 10; Carolina Wren, 12; Mockingbird, 16; Catbird, 15; Brown Thrasher, 14; Robin, 50 plus; Wood Thrush, 12; Swainson's Thrush, 1; Veery, 3; Eastern Bluebird, 65; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 20; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Loggerhead Shrike, 1; Starling, 55 (or more); White-eyed Vireo, 6; Yellow-throated Vireo, 4; Red-eyed Vireo, 11; **Philadelphia Vireo**, 1; Black-and-white Warbler, 12; Swanson's Warbler, 1; Parula Warbler, 8; Yellow Warbler, 15; Magnolia Warbler, 2; Cape May Warbler, 12; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 2; Myrtle Warbler, 25; Black-throated Green Warbler, 10; Blackburnian Warbler, 3; Yellow-throated Warbler, 5; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 3; Pine Warbler, 2; Prairie Warbler, 20; Palm Warbler, 1; Ovenbird, 16; Louisiana Waterthrush (and nest), 1; Yellowthroat, 11; Yellow-breasted Chat, 10; Hooded Warbler, 7; American Redstart, 5; House Sparrow, 50; Eastern Meadowlark, 25; Redwinged Blackbird, 60; Orchard Oriole, 6; Baltimore Oriole, 2; Common Grackle, 20; Brown-headed Cowbird, 50; Scarlet Tanager, 9; Summer Tanager, 2; Cardinal, 50; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 6; Blue Grosbeak, 2; Indigo Bunting, 4; Purple Finch, 1; American Goldfinch, 35; Rufous-sided Towhee, 26; Savannah Sparrow, 6; Grasshopper Sparrow, 6; Chipping Sparrow, 18; Field Sparrow, 5; **White-crowned Sparrow**, 12; White-throated Sparrow, 35; Swamp Sparrow, 4; Song Sparrow, 25. Total species, 107; total individuals, 1180.—Miss Isabel Bernhardt, Mrs. J. B. Bernard, Mrs. M. E. Bruner, Miss Cary Harrison, Miss Margaret Harper, Leslie Hines, Misses Florence and Irene Hoyer, Frank Hoyer, Joe T. Ingram, Mr. and Mrs. Fred May, Mrs. Yancey Moore, Helen Myers (compiler), Dr. and Mrs. Archie Shaftesbury, Wendell P. Smith, Dr. E. R. S. Taylor.

New London, Stanly Co., N. C. (area as in previous counts, centering about 2 miles NW of Badin).—Apr. 29; 4:15 AM to 6:30 PM. Cloudy in AM, clear and calm in PM. Morning wind to 15 mph, NW; temp. 39° to 61°. Seven observers in three parties. Total party-hours, 64 (48 on foot, 15 by car, 1 by boat); total party-miles, 124 (division not given.—Great Blue Heron, 1; Green Heron, 3; Little Blue Heron, 1; Mallard, 1; Blue-winged Teal, 10; Wood Duck, 2; Ring-necked Duck, 1; Turkey Vulture, 6; Black Vulture, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 3; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Broad-winged Hawk, 3; Marsh Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 36; Killdeer, 13; Common Snipe, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 5; Solitary Sandpiper, 6; Least Sandpiper, 4; Ring-billed Gull, 1; Mourning Dove, 62; Screech Owl, 2; Barred Owl, 4; Whip-poor-will, 2; Chimney Swift, 48; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 17; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 27; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 6; Red-headed Woodpecker, 4; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Eastern Kingbird, 41; Great Crested Flycatcher, 38; Eastern Phoebe, 10; Acadian Flycatcher, 1; Eastern Wood Pewee, 11; Horned Lark, 10; Tree Swallow, 14; Rough-winged Swallow, 70; Barn Swallow, 20; **Cliff Swallow**, 1; Purple Martin, 117; Blue Jay, 119; Common Crow, 44; Carolina Chickadee, 29; Tufted Titmouse, 18; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 4; House Wren, 4; Carolina Wren, 44; Mockingbird, 107; Catbird, 36; Brown Thrasher, 56; Robin, 169; Wood Thrush, 48; Swainson's Thrush, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 33; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 28; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 5; Water Pipit, 16; Cedar Waxwing, 23; Loggerhead Shrike, 16; Starling, 168; White-eyed Vireo, 16; Yellow-throated Vireo, 8; Red-eyed Vireo, 42; Black-and-white Warbler, 5; Prothonotary Warbler, 4; Yellow Warbler, 2; Magnolia Warbler, 1; Cape May

Warbler, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 64; Yellow-throated Warbler, 5; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 2; Pine Warbler, 13; Prairie Warbler, 18; Palm Warbler, 2; Ovenbird, 2; Yellowthroat, 26; Yellow-breasted Chat, 26; Hooded Warbler, 1; American Redstart, 9; House Sparrow, 295; Eastern Meadowlark, 102; Redwinged Blackbird, 79; Orchard Oriole, 25; Baltimore Oriole, 1; Rusty Blackbird, 1; Common Grackle, 34; Brown-headed Cowbird, 86; Scarlet Tanager, 2; Summer Tanager, 34; Cardinal, 157; Blue Grosbeak, 17; Indigo Bunting, 30; American Goldfinch, 165; Rufous-sided Towhee, 27; Grasshopper Sparrow, 4; Chipping Sparrow, 87; Field Sparrow, 41; White-throated Sparrow, 72; Song Sparrow, 4. **Total species, 105; total individuals, 3032.** (Seen in the Morrow Mountain section during the period but not on count day: Turkey.—P. E. Book, Mr. and Mrs. Barrett Crook, Mr. and Mrs. Wade Crowell, Allen and George Culp, Joe Ferrebee, C. M. Haithcock, Mrs. Myrtle Isenhour, Donald Maner (compiler), Mrs. M. L. Mason, Misses Vera and Gladys Mason, Mr. and Mrs. James Mauney, C. P. Misenheimer, Charles Graham Misenheimer, Mrs. J. E. Pennington, Ervin Poplin, Mrs. L. A. Price, Mrs. Bill Rogers, Wayne Smith, Jane Turner, B. B. Venters, Mrs. John Whitlock, Miss Bennie Winget.

Raleigh, N. C. (area same as in Christmas Counts).—Apr. 29; 5:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Clear all day; temp. 38° to 65°, wind 5 to 8 mph. Eight observers; other data not given.—Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Ring-necked Duck, 7; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Bobwhite, 32; Killdeer, 6; Spotted Sandpiper, 27; Greater Yellowlegs, 1; Pectoral Sandpiper, 1; Mourning Dove, 28; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1; Barred Owl, 1; Whip-poor-will, 1; Common Nighthawk, 2; Chimney Swift, 12; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 2; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 8; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 10; Red-headed Woodpecker, 6; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Eastern Kingbird, 8; Great Crested Flycatcher, 6; Eastern Phoebe, 2; Acadian Flycatcher, 1; Least Flycatcher, 1; Eastern Wood Pewee, 6; Bank Swallow, 6; Rough-winged Swallow, 28; Barn Swallow, 18; Purple Martin, 8; Blue Jay, 35; Common Crow, 48; Carolina Chickadee, 8; Tufted Titmouse, 12; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 3; House Wren, 8; Carolina Wren, 6; Mockingbird, 26; Catbird, 12; Brown Thrasher, 18; Robin, 76; Wood Thrush, 10; Hermit Thrush, 3; Veery, 2; Eastern Bluebird, 6; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 12; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 6; Cedar Waxwing, 35; Loggerhead Shrike, 2; Starling, 250; White-eyed Vireo, 12; Yellow-throated Vireo, 5; Solitary Vireo, 2; Red-eyed Vireo, 16; Black-and-white Warbler, 6; Worm-eating Warbler, 2; Golden-winged Warbler, 1; Blue-winged Warbler, 1; Parula Warbler, 4; Yellow Warbler, 8; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 5; Myrtle Warbler, 36; Yellow-throated Warbler, 2; Pine Warbler, 5; Prairie Warbler, 4; Palm Warbler, 1; Ovenbird, 6; Louisiana Waterthrush, 2; Kentucky Warbler, 2; Yellowthroat, 8; Yellow-breasted Chat, 15; Hooded Warbler, 8; Canada Warbler, 2; American Redstart, 6; House Sparrow, 150; Bobolink, 75; Eastern Meadowlark, 258; Redwinged Blackbird, 295; Orchard Oriole, 12; Purple Grackle, 6; Brown-headed Cowbird, 4; Scarlet Tanager, 2; Summer Tanager, 5; Cardinal, 28; Blue Grosbeak, 32; Indigo Bunting, 28; Dickcissel, 1; American Goldfinch, 20; Rufous-sided Towhee, 28; Savannah Sparrow, 21; Grasshopper Sparrow, 6; Bachman's Sparrow, 1; Chipping Sparrow, 24; Field Sparrow, 38; White-throated Sparrow, 38; Swamp Sparrow, 6; Song Sparrow, 6. **Total species, 103; total individuals, 2069.**—H. T. Davis, J. F. Greene, R. J. Hader, J. W. Johnson, Steven Johnson, E. W. Winkler, Mrs. D. L. Wray, D. L. Wray (compiler).

Wilmington, N. C. (area same as in Christmas Counts, centering one-half mile N. of Myrtle Grove Junction).—Apr. 29; 4:00 AM to 6:30 PM. Clear; temp. 44° to 66°; wind SW, 15-20 mph. Ocean calm. Eight observers in six parties. Total party-hours, 50½ (30 on foot, 20½ by car); total party-miles, 277 (27 on foot, 250 by car).—Common Loon, 6; Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Double-crested Cormorant, 11; Anhinga, 1; Great Blue Heron, 23; Green Heron, 17; Little Blue Heron, 13; Cattle Egret, 7; Common Egret, 50;

Snowy Egret, 25; Louisiana Heron, 4; Black-crowned Night Heron, 4; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 1; American Bittern, 1; Glossy Ibis, 6; Blue-winged Teal, 4; American Widgeon, 11; Wood Duck, 6; Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Turkey Vulture, 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 3; Osprey, 16; Pigeon Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 58; Clapper Rail, 22; Sora, 3; Purple Gallinule, 2; Common Gallinule, 1; American Coot, 6; American Oystercatcher, 20; Semipalmated Plover, 35; Wilson's Plover, 4; Killdeer, 2; Black-bellied Plover, 63; Whimbrel, 11; Spotted Sandpiper, 11; Solitary Sandpiper, 4; Willet, 125; Greater Yellowlegs, 46; Lesser Yellowlegs, 18; Pectoral Sandpiper, 11; Least Sandpiper, 6; Dunlin, 200; Dowitcher (sp.?), 180; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 18; Western Sandpiper, 4; Sanderling, 74; Herring Gull, 260; Ring-billed Gull, 435; Laughing Gull, 40; Bonaparte's Gull, 36; Gull-billed Tern, 8; Common Tern, 2; Least Tern, 336; Royal Tern, 10; Caspian Tern, 3; Black Skimmer, 95; Mourning Dove, 104; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 4; Black-billed Cuckoo, 1; Great Horned Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 1; Chuck-will's-widow, 10; Common Nighthawk, 2; Whip-poor-will, 2; Chimney Swift, 55; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 3; Belted Kingfisher, 6; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 68; Pileated Woodpecker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 14; Red-headed Woodpecker, 87; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Red-cockaded Woodpecker, 3; Eastern Kingbird, 42; Great Crested Flycatcher, 39; Acadian Flycatcher, 5; Eastern Wood Pewee, 7; Tree Swallow, 316; Rough-winged Swallow, 2; Barn Swallow, 330; Purple Martin, 113; Blue Jay, 193; Common Crow, 152; Fish Crow, 146; Carolina Chickadee, 38; Tufted Titmouse, 53; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 31; House Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 38; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 19; Mockingbird, 136; Catbird, 11; Brown Thrasher, 50; Robin, 2; Wood Thrush, 15; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 1; Veery, 2; Eastern Bluebird, 11; Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, 41; Cedar Waxwing, 108; Loggerhead Shrike, 4; Starling, 183; White-eyed Vireo, 29; Yellow-throated Vireo, 12; Red-eyed Vireo, 39; **Warbling Vireo**, 2; Black-and-white Warbler, 8; Prothonotary Warbler, 18; Blue-winged Warbler, 1; Parula Warbler, 105; Yellow Warbler, 4; Myrtle Warbler, 185; Black-throated Green Warbler, 2; Yellow-throated Warbler, 75; Pine Warbler, 13; Prairie Warbler, 35; Palm Warbler, 2; Louisiana Waterthrush, 1; Kentucky Warbler, 3; Yellowthroat, 35; Yellow-breasted Chat, 28; Hooded Warbler, 17; House Sparrow, 240; Bobolink, 22; Eastern Meadowlark, 117; Redwinged Blackbird, 845; Orchard Oriole, 104; Baltimore Oriole, 3; Boat-tailed Grackle, 107; Common Grackle, 21; Summer Tanager, 21; Cardinal, 199; Blue Grosbeak, 10; Indigo Bunting, 16; Painted Bunting, 36; American Goldfinch, 16; Rufous-sided Towhee, 76; **Ipswich Sparrow**, 3; Savannah Sparrow, 47; Sharp-tailed Sparrow, 3; Seaside Sparrow, 35; Vesper Sparrow, 1; Bachman's Sparrow, 6; Chipping Sparrow, 18; Field Sparrow, 20; White-throated Sparrow, 90; **Lincoln's Sparrow**, 1 (GM); Swamp Sparrow, 4; Song Sparrow, 2. **Total species**, 155; **total individuals**, 7597.—Mrs. Sam Alexander, Mrs. Mary Baker, Mrs. Dot Earle, Harry Lattimer, Greg Massey (compiler), Mrs. Polly Mebane, Mrs. Marie Vander Schalie, Mrs. Mary Urlich.

Winston-Salem, N. C. (restricted Christmas area including City Lake, Washington Park, Reynolda and County Farm).—Apr. 29; 5:15 AM to 6:45 PM. Clear, temp. 42° to 63°; wind NW-NNW, 0-30 mph. Three observers in three parties. Total party-hours, 27 (24 on foot, 3 by car); total party-miles, 67 (17 on foot, 50 by car).—Great Blue Heron, 1; Green Heron, 3; **Gadwall**, 6; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 6; Common Snipe, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 5; Mourning Dove, 49; Chimney Swift, 44; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 11; Belted Kingfisher, 4; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 9; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 9; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Eastern Kingbird, 2; Eastern Phoebe, 9; Acadian Flycatcher, 3; Horned Lark, 1 (RW); Tree Swallow, 44; Rough-winged Swallow, 31; Barn Swallow, 7; **Cliff Swallow**, 14; Purple Martin, 5; Blue Jay, 56; Common Crow, 42; Carolina Chickadee, 22; Tufted Titmouse, 10; White-breasted Nuthatch, 8; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 1; House Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 16; Mockingbird, 19; Catbird, 18; Brown Thrasher, 23; Robin, 66; Wood Thrush, 21; Swainson's Thrush, 5; **Gray-cheeked Thrush**,

1 (CF & HC); Eastern Bluebird, 1; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 38; Cedar Waxwing, 95; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1 (HC); Water Pipit, 1 (CF); Loggerhead Shrike, 2; Starling 78; White-eyed Vireo, 10; Yellow-throated Vireo, 1; Solitary Vireo, 2; Red-eyed Vireo, 15; Warbling Vireo, 1 (HC); Black-and-white Warbler, 3; Worm-eating Warbler, 2; Parula Warbler, 1; Yellow Warbler, 8; Myrtle Warbler, 56; Black-throated Green Warbler, 2; Blackburnian Warbler, 1; Yellow-throated Warbler, 1; Pine Warbler, 3; Prairie Warbler, 2; Palm Warbler, 3 (CF & HC); Ovenbird, 10; Louisiana Waterthrush, 3; Yellowthroat, 11; Yellow-breasted Chat, 7; Hooded Warbler, 10; American Redstart, 19; House Sparrow, 57; Eastern Meadowlark, 30; Redwinged Blackbird, 55; Orchard Oriole, 2; Baltimore Oriole, 2; Common Grackle, 88; Brown-headed Cowbird, 14; Scarlet Tanager, 5; Summer Tanager, 3; Cardinal, 57; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 2 (HC); Blue Grosbeak, 1; American Goldfinch, 45; Rufous-sided Towhee, 47; Chipping Sparrow, 72; Field Sparrow, 5; White-crowned Sparrow, 10; White-throated Sparrow, 40; Swamp Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 14. Total species, 89; total individuals, 1517.—L. Hartsell Cash, Charles M. Frost, R. H. Witherington (compiler).

BIRD BANDING, 1961

BY HARRY T. DAVIS

In order that bird watchers may be reminded and alerted for aluminum leg bands on birds, this is a report of banding activities for the summer of 1961 in the beach area between Cape Lookout and Ocracoke, North Carolina. On June 23, the writer joined Bill Joyner, John Thompson, and Carr Speight (CBC members from Rocky Mount) and went from Harkers Island to the sand lumps inside the beach at Cape Lookout. Local nesting birds banded were as follows: Black Skimmers, 116; Common Terns, 73; Royal Terns, 10; Gull-Billed Terns, 4. Of the banded, three Common Terns and one Black Skimmer were adults.

Adult birds counted approximated the number of banded young except for the Royal Terns. They numbered about 18 birds. Though these birds had attempted nesting here for three previous seasons, this is their first successful nesting season here. Without seeing the birds one can tell by the packed conditions of the soil just where this species is nesting.

The Sooty Tern was again present this year, one hovering within 20 feet of the banders for several minutes. Only the one was seen this year.

One other feature this year was that about ten percent of the young birds in the area were found dead. Their appearance indicated that they had been dead about a week. Looking for an answer, we observed that temperatures between June 16 and 20 had reached record lows.

On June 24, we visited the heron rookery on Starvation Island in Newport River about one mile north of the Morehead-Beaufort causeway. Banding was as follows: Little Blue Heron, 20; American Egret, 6; Glossy Ibis, 5; Snowy Egret, 1. It was impossible to make a nest count in the dense and tangled growth. Nesting birds on the island, in order of abundance, were Little Blue Heron, American Egret, Louisiana Heron, Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis, Boat-tailed Grackle, Black-crowned Night Heron, and Willet.

On July 8, 1961, shortly after 5 AM, Messrs. Joyner, Thompson, Daniel Knight, and the writer visited Shell Castle Island which is some five miles northwest of Ocracoke Inlet. On the western portion of the island we observed several hundred young Royal Terns in typical clusters on the open part with the sand and oyster shell surface. While the air was cool, with light showers, we drove our stakes and set up a corral of 18 inch, one inch mesh, chicken wire. We then cut out about 250 from the clustered birds and drove them slowly into the pen. We had our hands opened and quickly applied them. Repeating this process three times we used 700 bands in about three hours. Also we banded 20 Laughing Gulls that wandered from the heavy grass to join the activity. There were about 1000 young Royal Terns present, near flying size, and a few flying.

On an adjoining smaller island we turned our attention to a Brown Pelican colony, the northernmost along our coast. Some 47 of these were well grown, 2 nests had 2 eggs each, and there were 4 birds still in the black naked hatchling stage. These were quickly banded by placing a restraining net or hand on the lunging head. Of note is the fact that another similar island has built up about 12 miles south of the above and there is a nesting colony of pelicans thereon. We observed this closely from the ferry which passed within about one mile. It was difficult to distinguish, but there appeared also to be a group of young terms on this nameless new island.

Some recoveries of interest since July, 1960, are:

Brown Pelicans, banded at Ocracoke, N. C. on June 29, 1960, recovered at Vedra Beach, Fla. (November 20, 1960), Cocoa Beach, Fla. (January 12, 1961), Murrell's Inlet, S. C. (March 9, 1961), Indian River, Fla. (February 21, 1961), Sullivan's Island, S. C. (March 25, 1961).

Royal Terns, banded at Ocracoke, N. C. on June 29, 1960, recovered at Siesta Key, Fla. (October 6, 1960), Hollendale Beach, Fla. (January 2, 1961), Palm Beach Inlet, Fla. (February 4, 1961), Cape Canaveral, Fla. (February 18, 1961), Sebastian Inlet, Fla. (December 30, 1960), Tampa Bay, Fla. (January 2, 1961), Jama, Ecuador (January 15, 1961), Bay of Chetumal, Quintana Roo, Mexico (December, 1960).

Black Skimmer, banded at Cape Lookout, N. C. on July 2, 1957, recovered at Cape Canaveral, Fla. (December 29, 1960).

Evening Grosbeak, banded at Raleigh, N. C. on January 23, 1960, recovered at Adams, Mass. (March 15, 1961).

*N. C. State Museum
Raleigh, North Carolina
July, 1961*



BACKYARD BIRDING

Have you ever observed the reaction of birds on our feeders to the presence of various insects? Mrs. John Ford, of Sylva, North Carolina, combines bee-keeping with bird-feeding and sent the following report:

"Up in the mountains of North Carolina cold winter and mild spring have alternately had possession of the land. This advance and retreat every week or so has given the bees several days of gathering weather off and on during January, February, and March. Our bee colonies have an ample supply of honey left on the hives to winter them over, but apparently the bees have been busy gathering corn meal and pollen for raising a brood.

"We first noticed this in January, when on warm days, the bees visited the piles of cracked corn we put on fence posts and the lawn to feed song birds. We watched hundreds of them stuffing their pollen baskets with the dust and the finer parts of the corn. This many bees were too much for the birds which confined their feeding times to the beginning and end of the day when it was too cold for bees to fly. In early February we had four successive days of good flying weather, and during this time our bees carried away in their pollen baskets nine coffee cans of corn meal. At other times in these months whenever the weather was warm the bees have continued this activity, but we did not keep track of the quantity they used.

"As I write this in mid-April, the peach and pear blooms have come and gone, it is a sunny afternoon, and bees are gathering nectar from the flowers of the Upland Cress and pussy willows. The busiest pollen-gatherers, are on the yellow cracked corn we put out for the song birds."

By the time this is in print, another school term will have begun. I want to urge every adult in the Carolina Bird Club to do everything in his power to interest children in nature study. I feel so strongly about the privilege of teaching children to recognize and to learn to conserve the wonders of the out-of-doors that I will say that I think it is our obligation as club members to promote the use of the Audubon material in our schools during the winter months. But best of all is the opportunity to maintain a Nature Sanctuary where the information learned in the clubs may be put into effect by the children. Children gain much from the printed

material, but remember far more from a walk in the woods or the visit to the shore of a pond. And we cannot pass all the wonder and the glory on to the children without living all over again the thrill of first watching a young bird fed or of amazement at the diving of a grebe on the pond. I was very interested, on receiving a clipping from the *Lenoir News-Topic*, in reading of the activities of members of the Lenoir Audubon Club (who are also CBC members) in developing, sponsoring and maintaining a Nature Sanctuary behind the city swimming pool. The six-acre area contains nature trails, a pond, and two streams, and is declared by Bill Hamnet of the North Carolina Wildlife Commission to be ideal, since it contains the greatest variety of plants and trees in that section of the state. Plants in the botanical garden have been classified and tagged, and the trails bear such enticing names as "Old Wagon Way," "Slippery Lane," and "Trillium Trail." The streams are Jenny Wren Creek and Chickadee Creek! The latter runs through "Hoot-Owl Hollow." Miss Helen Myers, botanist, and Audubon Society and CBC member, is quoted: "We want to teach the children and the public to recognize and love wildlife—both birds and plants, to know that *every one* is precious. We want them to learn to enjoy . . . not destroy the sanctuary . . . Joe Ingram is chairman of the project. He had this sign placed near the entrance: 'A sanctuary is a place where the rights of all living things are respected.'"

Tom Parks and Frank Hoyer marked the trees, Miss Myers and Miss Margaret Harper identified the plants. Native plants not found in the the area are being transplanted to the sanctuary. Study groups and classes are invited. The story appeared in the *News-Topic* of Lenoir, North Carolina, May 9, 1961, and was written by Nancy Alexander. Congratulations, Lenoir Club!

* * * * *

Jacksonville, N. C.
April 23, 1961

Dear Editor:

As I was watering some plants this afternoon, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird ducked in and out of the spray for five minutes, then sat on a nearby limb and preened himself. He repeated this exhibition several times while the sun enhanced his beauty. He was about five feet from me.

Truly, that was a "Life's Extra".

Sincerely,
Mrs. W. Carrol Bryan

All morning I have been working on our window feeder. The squirrels had jumped on it from the roof and broken the support for the hardware cloth bottom. So I ripped off the remains of the wood and replaced it with a wider strip that was a part of an old oak frame, and stapled the wire to that. Then I took two narrow strips of hardware cloth, turned under the sharp edges, and made two circles, wiring the end together. These were placed at opposite ends of the shelf and wired to the bottom. Into one, I placed a salmon can of crumbled biscuit. (Be sure to punch holes in the bottom of the can.) In the other was put dampened bread. In winter, I use milk to wet the bread. In summer, it does not seem to matter. The

birds eat it so fast that anything seems to do. They seem to know they have to beat the squirrels to get any! With the winter feeding ahead of us, we are glad to get suggestions for suitable mixtures for our birds. The following recipe was sent me by Mrs. Edward McMaster of Winnsboro, South Carolina:

"In making up a suet Casserole for birds I use as a base any salvaged greases such as cooking oil, bacon drippings, used shortening, and so forth. I mix this with corn meal or uncooked oatmeal until I have a very heavy, stiff, mixture. To this may be added sugar, remnants of jellies, preserves, or honey. Raisins, chopped dates, nuts, peanut butter, dry cereals, and sunflower seed are very attractive to the birds. I top the casserole with sunflower seeds and crumbs. An ample supply may be made and molded in ice cream or milk cartons. These may be stored in refrigerator or freezer, then thawed and unmolded when needed."

This recipe may be varied according to the contents of your refrigerator or cabinets. I use various sweets and cereals at different makings.—A. R. FAVER, *Dept. Editor, Eastover, S. C.*

NEWS AND COMMENTS

Christmas Count—The official National Audubon Society dates for the 1961 Christmas Count are December 20 through January 1. Reports of the count in the Carolinas should be sent to B. R. Chamberlain, and each compiler is urged to follow the format as it appears in *Audubon Field Notes*. Especially is it necessary that these reports be double-spaced and typewritten.

Bird Kill Information Desired.—As the fall season approaches, we can expect some migratory birds to be killed at TV or radio towers or at airport ceilometers. It is possible to predict these accidents with a fair degree of accuracy, for in the past they have occurred with an advancing cold front and a lowered cloud ceiling at night. Under these conditions, night migrants might crash into obstacles such as towers.

Whereas these accidents are unfortunate, the data gleaned from them in the past have contributed much to our understanding of migration. Every ornithologist in the Carolinas is urged to be on the lookout for any mass kills in this area. If any birds are killed, the following data are desirable: wind, rain, and other weather conditions, tower height, distance from tower where birds were found, number of each species involved. We would like to compile those records for publication in *The Chat*.

Also, these birds are quite valuable for research and study specimens. Your editor would like to encourage everyone to freeze all birds immediately. Arrangements can then be made for shipment to him. But, the important thing is to pick up all birds and freeze them in closed containers (plastic bags are suitable) as soon as possible.



GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. Burnham Chamberlain, Thomas W. Simpson, MD., Wendell P. Smith, Ivan R. Tomkins, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Wadmalaw Island, S. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

Magnificent Frigate-bird on the Upper South Carolina Coast.—Recently Clyde Wilcher, my husband, and I spent our vacation at Garden City, S. C. We covered the beach, marshes and woods between the beach and Hwy. 17 and the northern part of the inlet thoroughly and kept a daily check-list of birds. At the point, on some small dunes just above high tide, we found Black Skimmer nests with 2, 3, and 4 eggs, and 50-60 young Least Terns. These varied from downy young to immatures almost the size of adults.

On June 12, at about 4:30 PM, Clyde saw two large birds hovering overhead within a hundred feet, so close that he could see that they had white heads and underparts. He called to my husband who was lying on the beach, and they ran to obtain binoculars and the telescope. I arrived in time to get a good look through the telescope. The big birds, identified as Magnificent Frigate-birds (*Fregata magnificens*), soon sailed out of sight up the beach (NE), so we pursued them in the car. Luckily, we caught up with them, and I could see the hooked bill of one bird I watched as it seemed to float in the air.

We checked with the Naval Air Station at the beach and found that the wind was from the south at 14 knots at 4:38 PM. Earlier that afternoon there had been a thunder-storm but the sky had only a few clouds at the time.—FLODIE (MRS. WILLIAM G.) COBEY, *Charlotte, N. C., June 24, 1961.*

Northern Phalarope on Lake Murray, South Carolina—Quoted verbatim from a letter dated May 22, 1961: "This morning my husband and I were boating on Lake Murray, when we spotted a small, dark bird on the water a mile or so NE of the Bombing Range Island. As we slowed the boat and eased toward it, it flushed, showing a white wing stripe. It looked like a Sanderling but had a deeper wing stroke. It made a brief circle, alighting again, and began spinning around dipping its bill in and out of the water. We approached it to about 25 feet and identified it as a female Northern Phalarope [*Lobipes lobatus*] in high plumage. We watched it with binoculars while it fed and bathed for three or four minutes and then flushed it again. It seemed disinclined to go anywhere, as it would make a short flight, drop down and commence spinning. We decided that it was both weary and hungry, so left it to its own devices."—MRS. ELLISON D. SMITH, *Columbia, S. C.* (This appears to be the first record of the Northern Phalarope in South Carolina since 1934. Ivan Tomkins found a group of eleven of them on Hutchinson Island, Georgia, at the mouth of the Savannah River on Aug. 13, 1958, where they remained in diminishing numbers until Sept. 13 (*Chat*, 23:19, 1959). Hutchinson Island is a few hundred yards below the S. C. state line.—*Dept. Ed*)

A Concentration of Mississippi Kites in Central South Carolina—On May 20, 1961, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Norwood and Mr. and Mrs. Shuford Peeler observed fourteen Mississippi Kites (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) sailing over the fields back of the Wateree State Prison Farm in Sumter, S. C. The farm is located about ten miles below Camden. The same parties saw a single kite several miles farther south of this point, on Hwy 261, on the same date.

Dr. and Mrs. William G. Cobey drove through the Prison Farm area on May 24 and found a surprisingly large concentration of Mississippi Kites. Mrs. Cobey's account of their experience follows:

"We reached the lake back of the Wateree State Prison farm about 2:30 p.m. on May 24 and almost as soon as we stopped we saw a kite. It was a good distance away, but its flight was so like a swallow as to be unmistakable. Then we saw another—and took a side road in their direction. Soon we saw a group of seven. A number of Black Vultures were perched on some dead trees close by, and several were flying. Their flight is quite unlike that of the kites.

By this time we had seen the broad pale stripe on the rear edge of the wings but had not seen the gray head since the sun was behind them. Also, we wanted to see if there were any immature birds. So we followed the side road—past a large field and across a tongue of forest into another large field. At the end of this field we saw a swarm of birds dipping and circling like a flock of swallows. We both counted them through our binoculars. Bill got 40, I got 38. Then one flew directly over our heads, fairly low, so we were able to see the pale gray head and black tail, as well as the white wing patches. Again we counted the birds, looking at each individual to be positive that they were all Mississippi Kites. We each came up with forty."

Audubon Field Notes (14:378, 1961) records an observation of thirty or more on May 15 and June 5, 1960 near Augusta, Georgia.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Wadmalaw Island, S. C., July 3, 1961*.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Wilmington.—On the morning of June 1, 1961, Mr. Jack McCarley, owner of Echo Dairy Farm near Wilmington, N. C., called Mrs. Dot Earle and Mr. Harry Latimer, both of the Wilmington Natural Science Club, and reported that a strange bird with two extremely long tail feathers was sitting on telephone and fence wires near his home at the farm.

Maurice Barnhill and I were notified of the presence of the bird that same afternoon and when we arrived at the farm we found Mr. Latimer, who had been watching the bird for approximately an hour. He identified it as a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*).

The bird was perched on a fence wire and the three of us watched it for twenty minutes. It was an adult and we thought it was probably a male because of the very long tail feathers and the bright orange-red coloring on the sides of the body. We approached within 40 feet of it on several occasions, but when we tried to get closer it would fly with a twisting, turning motion, and perch again at a distance on the fence wire.

Mrs. Earle joined us in watching the bird. She checked the farm the following day with others who wanted to see the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, but apparently it had left.

This is a *first* record of this western bird in the Wilmington area.—GREG MASSEY, *Wilmington, N. C., June 15, 1961* (The first known occurrence of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in North Carolina was at Southern Pines on April 6, 1953. On June 19 of the same year one was found at Chapel Hill. Both are reported in *The Chat* (17:73, 1953). A third bird, found in Beaufort County, June 27, 1956, was collected for the State Museum (*Chat*, 20:60, 1956). The present report appears to be the fourth for the state.—*Dept. Ed.*)

Tragedy at the Martin Gourds (Concluded)—Under this caption an account was related in our December, 1960, issue, page 101: a dead female Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) was found with its head hanging out of its nesting gourd. The exposed head and "shoulders" were slicked down with a slimy-looking substance. The cause of its death was unknown. The gourd was one of four hung from the terminal fork of a transplanted cedar limb, sun-bleached driftwood from Leadenwah Creek. The gourds are nine to twelve feet above the ground.

Again this spring martins returned to these gourds. The number of birds did not exceed the accommodations this year and, even though there was considerable discord, successful nesting appeared to be under way. Then, one night in the middle of June, snakes raided the colony. Early in the morning the head and several inches of neck of a Rat Snake (*Elaphe quadrivittata*) was seen waving slowly from one of the gourds. When the gourd was removed, two compactly coiled Rat Snakes were in it. They would not leave the gourd under observation so it was placed under an inverted aquarium tank for inspection. That evening both easily dug out of their enclosure and probably one or both again raided the martins. The following morning there were no eggs left in the gourds and from one of them hung the head of a freshly killed female. As with the victim found last summer, this bird's head and neck were slick and slimy. A close examination of its neck showed several longitudinal scratches and I have no doubt now that the slimy-looking fluid was saliva from a snake that had been unable to pull the bird's body through the hole but had thoroughly "mouthed" its head in the attempt. The hole is nearly two inches in diameter, seemingly large enough for the pull through, but the snake could not manage it with its head unsupported for a foot or more.

Now, late by at least two martins and an undertermined number of eggs, a snake gourd is under construction and Nature will not take her course at this colony for a while, at least.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Wadmalaw Island, S. C., July 8, 1961.*

Prothonotary Warbler Breeding in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina—In North Carolina the Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) is ordinarily thought of as being a summer resident in the coastal regions only. It remained for John Trott to report the first acceptable evidence of this bird's nesting in Piedmont North Carolina near New London, some 200 miles from the coast (*Chat*, 15:58, 1951). In addition, *Birds of North Carolina* (1959) states that there are a few inland records, one as far west as Chapel Hill.

Trott's findings led me to suspect that this warbler might nest in suitable habitat along the Catawba River in Mecklenburg County, about 45 miles southwest of New London. In the summer of 1960, Frank Ramsey reported seeing a male and female Prothonotary Warbler along the banks of the Catawba in the southwestern part of the county. Both were observed carrying food, but he was unable to find a nest.

On May 14, 1961, at about 9 AM Frank and his father were observing birds at about this same spot when they heard a male Prothonotary Warbler persistently singing. They separated to track the bird down, and soon Frank saw the male going into a nesting hole of a Black Willow growing out of the bank of the river. The hole was about four feet from the ground on the underside of a dead spur of the tree. They observed both adults carrying insects and larvae to the nest, and could hear the loud clamor of the nestlings when the parents approached. Of interest was the manner in which the adults left the nest: they would come out of the hole head first, hang on the edge of the hole head down, then drop off and fly away. Sixteen-millimeter color motion pictures were taken of this activity at a distance of about twelve feet. This appeared not to bother the birds as they proceeded calmly with the care of the young. On May 21, Frank returned to find the hole vacant, the young apparently having fledged.

Of added interest is the possibility that this warbler might also be nesting across the river in York County, South Carolina. *South Carolina Bird Life* (1949) reports inland nesting for Aiken and Clarendon counties only.—JOSEPH R. NORWOOD, *Charlotte, N. C., July 8, 1961.*

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

MARCH 1, 1960 to APRIL 1, 1961

CASH BALANCE	MARCH 1, 1960	\$2024.11	
CASH BALANCE	APRIL 1, 1961	2513.43	
INCOME FROM DUES, ETC. SAME PERIOD			\$2343.36
EXPENDITURES FOR SAME PERIOD			1823.04
AUDUBON SOCIETY:			
	Audubon Camp	\$ 210.00	
	(Mrs. Perrett, Mrs. Leland)		
	Society affiliate dues	15.00	\$ 225.00
THE CHAT:			
	March 1960	\$511.78	
	June 1960	218.41	
	Sept. 1960	133.70	
	Dec. 1960	201.17	
	Envelopes	134.00	
	Postage	10.00	
	Mail Permit	10.00	\$1219.06
NEWSLETTER:			
	Envelopes	\$ 64.10	
	Paper	19.09	
	Mail Permit	20.00	
	Add. Ribbon	1.43	
	Add. help	2.29	\$ 106.91
OFFICE MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES:			
	Stamps	\$ 10.50	
	Pres. exp.	16.31	\$ 26.81
MISCELLANEOUS:			
	Field Trip (G. Smith)	\$12.71	
	Intangible Tax	1.31	
	Treasurer's Bond	10.00	
	Tranf. to savings	200.00	
	Mrs. "A" Birds of Fla.	12.50	
	Mrs. "A" Bird Records	7.00	
	Wrapping Records	.74	\$ 245.26
IN CHECKING APRIL 1, 1961		\$2513.69	
IN SAVINGS APRIL 1, 1961		1319.69	

\$3833.38 TREASURY OF CBC

Respectfully submitted,
William L. Hamnett,
Treasurer

BOOK REVIEWS

Mark Catesby, The Colonial Audubon. George F. Frick and Raymond P. Stearns. 1961. University of Illinois Press, Urbana, Ill. \$5.00.

This book completes the story of Mark Catesby as an English naturalist in America about a century after the first colonies were established. Later he has been called "The Founder of American Ornithology," but this book designates him as "The Colonial Audubon" because of the paintings of birds, with accessory plants, in his two volumes (1732 and 1747), "The Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands." Although Catesby was first a botanist, his volumes establish him as the most competent naturalist who had worked and published on American plants and animals up to this time. His work was done in Virginia (1712-1719) and in South Carolina and points south (1722-1726). There are no indications that he came to North Carolina at any time.

In the Old World there had been a marked revival of interest in the sciences. The colonies in the New World had given impetus to this in new fields, and Catesby's volumes had wide popularity and eager readers. His illustrations were declared "sumptuous."

This book is a scholarly evaluation of the eighteenth century naturalist. The authors have exhaustively mined the sources of information from both Britain and America. This bids to be the final authority on the man and naturalist Mark Catesby.—HARRY T. DAVIS.

The Book of Bird Life. Arthur A. Allen. Second edition, 1961. D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., 120 Alexander St., Princeton, N. J. xxii + 396 pp. \$9.75.

Many people will recall the first edition of this book which appeared thirty-one years ago. This new edition has been "thoroughly revised in an up-to-date" fashion, especially by the addition of new material on distribution, migration, bird songs, and numerous color photographs. Dr. William C. Dilger has provided some 75 black and white illustrations to show differences among various common bird families; these add greatly to the chapter on classification of birds and to the attractiveness of the book.

The chapters in this edition concern such topics as bird communities, bird behaviour, adaptations, plumages, bird walks, identification of bird nests, and bird photography. This book, I believe, is intended for the amateur ornithologist who might wish to have a superficial knowledge of these and other subjects, because most certainly this publication does not have the scientific flavor of the other standard works on general ornithology (Van Tyne and Berger, for example). Fortunately the author indicates in several places that more provocative summaries are to be found elsewhere. It does contain information of a popular nature (attracting birds, nest identification) which is of some value to laymen and professional alike.

The book must be used with some caution. On page 237 there is a photograph of a "moulting spotted salamander" which, on page 235, is described as "the black spot on the throat of the male House Sparrow." Then, too, the key to bird nests beginning on page 317 includes nests of squirrels and mice. On the whole, however, this edition is handsomely illustrated with excellent photographs (some in color) by the author and is written in an attractive and readable style.—DAVID W. JOHNSTON.

The Bird Watcher's Guide. Henry Collins. 1961. 123 pp. Golden Press, Inc., 630 Fifth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York. \$3.95.

The lasting and growing enjoyment of any hobby is always enhanced by getting started in the right way. Many people with a casual interest in birds never become more interested simply because they do not know how to find birds, or how to attract them to their yards. **THE BIRD WATCHER'S GUIDE** is a good way for the beginner to get a good foundation for this engrossing hobby, and as a guide it is the best substitute I've seen to date for an actual experienced person.

This is an attractive, well illustrated book, and covers the many aspects of birding well without going into so much detail as to lose the interest of the beginner. The book discusses equipment needed, types of places to look for birds, how to find them in general and certain species in particular, best times of day for finding them, housing and feeding of birds, bird handling and photography, and last, it gives suggestions for conservation.

This book would be excellent for young peoples' nature clubs and also would be interesting to adult beginners in bird finding.—MERRILL P. SPENCER.

Biology and Comparative Physiology of Birds. Edited by A. J. Marshall. Volumes I (518 pp.) and II (468 pp.) Academic Press, 111 Fifth Avenue, New York 3, N. Y. 1960 and 1961. \$14.00 each.

These two volumes appear as monuments in contemporary ornithological literature because they represent a compilation of data ordinarily difficult to dig out of the original sources. Marshall has certainly performed a distinct service in preparing these two volumes. He has called upon numerous experts the world over to write the various chapters, and in general the subject matters are up-to-date (there are some references as late as 1959), informative, and fairly well edited. Among the American contributors are Drs. A. J. Berger, G. W. Salt, Robert W. Storer, Donald S. Farner, James R. King, and Emil Witschi.

Volume I contains chapters on The Origin of Birds, Adaptive Radiation, Classification of Birds, Geographical Distribution, Development of Birds, Integumentary System, Skeleton of Birds, Musculature, Blood-vascular System, Respiration, Digestion, and Excretion. Generally speaking, each chapter is well written and covers both old, reliable data as well as more contemporary findings. To cite but one interesting case in point, Chapter I reveals the interesting fact that three specimens of *Archaeopteryx* have now been found, and at least two of these have been studied thoroughly. As might be expected, much foreign literature is included in all these chapters, and, if anything, it is possible that some of the important American literature on a given subject has been overlooked. Special attention should be called to the excellent presentations on respiration (by Salt and Zeuthen) and digestion (by Farner).

Volume II contains chapters on the Central Nervous System, Sensory Organs (skin, taste, olfaction, vision, and hearing), Endocrine Glands, Sexual Characters, Reproduction, Energy Metabolism, Flight, Breeding Seasons and Migration, Orientation, Behavior, and Bird Populations. This

second volume presents, moreso than the first, more theoretical, and physiological investigations, some of which are at the front forefront of contemporary ornithological studies. For example, there are sections devoted to the complexities of migration (especially its regulation), energy balances and metabolic rates, orientation by birds with respect to solar bodies, and theoretical aspects of flight. Perusal of these chapters is both stimulating and informative, especially since the careful reader becomes aware of the magnitude of the problems still facing the investigator.

Anyone desiring to inform himself on these advances in avian biology is urged to obtain and refer to these volumes. By no means are they intended to be the "final word" on a given subject, but the contributors have done well in their presentations of past and present knowledge in the various fields discussed.—DAVID W. JOHNSTON

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

Common Loon, 1 at Myrtle Beach, S. C., May 15, Greg Massey. • **Pied-billed Grebe**, 1 incubating at Savannah River Refuge, Apr. 21, Brooke Meanley. • **Cattle Egret**, 4 near Eastover, S. C., May 29 and 5, May 31, Mrs. W. H. Faver. • **Wood Ibis**, 200 approx., half in the air and the others on mudflats at Savannah River Refuge, June 23, Francis M. Weston. • **Blue-winged Teal**, 1 at Charleston, May 14, T. A. Beckett, III. • **Swallow-tailed Kite**, 1 at Huger, S. C., Sept. 10, 1960, Edward S. Dingle; 1 at Savannah River Refuge, Apr. 21, Brooke Meanley. • **Mississippi Kite**, 1 at Charleston, May 6, Anne W. Richardson. • **Broad-winged Hawk**, 1 at Charlotte, Mar. 26, Julian Meadows. • **Bald Eagle**, 1 over a pen of tame wild geese and ducks in yard of Wesly Paul at Davis, N. C., May 19, H. T. Davis. • **Pigeon Hawk**, 1 at Savannah, Mar. 1, Ivan Tomkins. • **King Rail**, 1 at Wagram, Scotland Co., N. C., May 18 and 19, E. R. Lyon and party; a brood of young—1 to 4 days old, egg tooth present—and another nest with 9 eggs, Apr. 16, Savannah River Refuge, Brooke Meanley. • **Black Rail**, heard at North Wilkesboro, May 18, Wendell P. Smith. • **Common Gallinule**, 1 immature at Fayetteville, arrived in mid-October, 1960, remained continuously until Mar. 30, at which time the red bill color, which began to show in January, was strongly evident but not solid, Mrs. Roscoe Hauser, Jr. • **Wilson's Plover**, arrived Wilmington, Apr. 9, Mrs. Dot Earle. • **Killdeer**, adult with two young at Green Lawn Memorial Park, Columbia, S. C., Apr. 15, Mrs. B. W. Kendall. • **Common Snipe**, 1 at Charleston, May 3, R. H. Coleman; at Wrightsville Beach, Apr. 22, Greg Massey. • **Purple Sandpiper**, 3 at Wrightsville Beach, Apr. 14, Mrs. Dot Earle. • **Willet**, 1 at Hartwell backwater, Anderson, S. C., Mar. 19, Mrs. R. C. Tedards. • **Jaeger** (sp.), 1 chasing Forster's Tern at Savannah, Mar. 2, Ivan Tomkins. • **Great Black-backed Gull**, 1 in 2nd. year plumage, June 9, Cape Hatteras, D. W. Johnston; 1 adult and 1 im., Wrightsville Beach, June 14, Greg Massey. • **Black Skimmer**, a bird banded by John Thompson at Cape Lookout, N. C., June 25, 1960, was recovered at Key Largo, Florida, Jan. 2. • **Razorbill**, found dead on beach at Cape Lookout, Mar. 12, Mrs. L. E. Whitfield and Mrs. Roscoe Hauser, Jr. • **Saw-whet Owl**, 1 came down a chimney near Lenoir, N. C., in December, 1960,

and died in captivity, Helen E. Myers; 1 was found near Indian Gap, N. C., and its voice recorded, Apr. 30, Dr. and Mrs. William G. Cobey. • **Chimney Swift**, 2 at Chapel Hill, Mar. 25, Maurice Barnhill. • **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, 1 at Summerville, S. C., Mar. 31, E. R. Cuthbert, Jr.; a female caught its bill in a screen but released itself at Charleston, May 4, 1961, W. D. Chamberlain, Jr. • **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, 1 at Charleston as late as May 3, R. H. Coleman. • **Horned Lark**, nest with 3 eggs, May 27; 2 young, May 30, at Winston-Salem. These were banded, June 4, D. W. Johnston. • **Bank Swallow**, 4, Apr. 27, North Wilkesboro, Wendell P. Smith. • **Cliff Swallow**, 1 at Surfside (Garden City), S. C., Apr. 14, Mrs. R. C. Tedards; 2, North Wilkesboro, May 1, Wendell P. Smith. • **Mockingbird**, a pair in the yard at Jefferson this spring, moved off to nest. The first time more than one has been present, Mrs. A. B. Hurt. • **Cedar Waxwing**, adult, apparently in courtship behavior, fed maple buds to another, Feb. 27 at Charlotte, the J. R. Norwoods; 2 were at Winston-Salem June 5, D. W. Johnston; they were late at Wilmington, where 20 were seen, May 26, Greg Massey. • **Swainson's Warbler**, 1 in I'On Swamp, Charleston County, Apr. 25, Brooke Meanley. • **Golden-winged Warbler**, several in Seven Bridges Swamp, Edgecombe Co., N. C., May 5, John Thompson and party. • **Blue-winged Warbler**, 2 in eastern Columbia, May 7, Mrs. B. W. Kendall; some at Seven Bridges Swamp, May 5, John Thompson and party. • **Tennessee Warbler**, 1 male, Seven Bridges Swamp, May 5, John Thompson and party. • **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, 1 feeding and singing, Wrightsville Beach, May 16. This is the first spring record for the area in four years, Mrs. Dot Earle. • **Wilson's Warbler**, 1 at North Wilkesboro, Apr. 25; 1 at Fayetteville, May 4, Mrs. Roscoe Hauser, Jr.; 1 at Jefferson, May 5, Mrs. A. B. Hurt. • **Bobolink**, 60 at Wilmington, May 17, Mrs. Dot Earle and Mrs. K. Alexander. • **Dickcissel**, 1 at feeder, Feb. 25 through Mar. 3, Washington, N. C., Geraldine H. Cox. • **Evening Grosbeaks**, these reports received in letter from H. T. Davis, dated May 31: at Raleigh, 1 most of February, Mrs. A. J. Skaale and 1 Feb. 5, Bart Moore; at Rocky Mount, 1 male, Mar. 4 through Mar. 8, E. Carr Speight; at Smithfield, 1, Feb. 5, Mrs. Thomas Lassiter. All at feeders. • **White-crowned Sparrow**, 1 at Laurinburg, N. C., Jan. 27, Rev. Richard E. Price, report by E. R. Lyon.

All dates 1961 unless otherwise noted. Compiled by B. R. Chamberlain.



Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, chiefly in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

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Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	\$1.00	Contributing	\$25.00
Supporting	\$5.00	Affiliated Club	\$2.00
Life—\$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)			

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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THE CHAT

Volume 25 Number 4
DECEMBER, 1961

Division of Birds

Bulletin of



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THE CHAT

Volume 25, Number 4
DECEMBER, 1961

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Cover Photo—Young Sandwich Tern begging food from adult. Photographed by Ivan R. Tomkins, Savannah, Georgia.

The Chat

SOME ASPECTS OF THE FALL SHOREBIRD MIGRATION AT SOUTHPORT, N. C. IN 1961

BY T. L. QUAY AND D. A. ADAMS

The general region of Southport, at the mouth of the Cape Fear River and including both Oak and Smith islands and their adjacent marshes, is a complex maritime habitat about sixteen square miles in extent (Figure 1). Nearly three-fourths of this area is composed of salt marshes, tidal flats, sand bars, and ocean beaches especially suitable for migrating shorebirds. The long axis of each of the three topographic features—mainland, marsh, and ocean beach—makes an abrupt right-angled turn in this Southport-Cape Fear section from essentially north-south to east-west. The Cape Fear River, flowing southward between mainland on the west and outer-bank islands on the east, empties into the ocean between Oak and Smith islands. The great hosts of shorebirds migrating along the North Carolina coast must not only pass through the Southport maritime environment but also at the same time negotiate the ninety-degree turn in the contour of the coastline.

In the present paper we are reporting, on the basis of preliminary and incomplete observations made in the late summer of 1961, what some of the particular flight lanes are (and may be) on the southward or "fall" migration. Included also are notes on flock size, flock composition, and numbers. Our observations were made rather incidentally while otherwise engaged in research activities on salt-marsh ecology (Adams) and heron nesting biology (Quay). Most observations were made in the Southport-Battery Island-Oak Island section, with relatively few in the larger area of Smith Island.

Our previous experience with shorebirds in migration have been almost entirely those of identifying, counting, and otherwise studying the birds in selected favorable places while they were feeding, resting, or making very local movements. Over many years of study, at such places as Beaufort, Southport, and Cape Hatteras, we have only occasionally seen flocks which were clearly in passage. This is probably the common experience of most bird watchers. At Southport this summer, however, we observed large numbers of flocks which were clearly passing through the area without local stops. The first southward flights occurred during the week of July 9-15, when a number of small, separate flocks of Whimbrels, Greater Yellowlegs, dowitchers, and "peep" sandpipers were seen passing by Battery Island and over the Oak Island marshes to and westward along the outer beach. The peak of these movements came during the last two weeks of July, when all the above species plus Willets, Knots, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Marbled Godwits were passing through. Smaller numbers were seen during August and into early September, after which we had to return to Raleigh.

The majority of the flocks numbered between seven and eleven birds each. Some flocks were as low as four or five birds and some as high as 15 to 18 birds. The continuing small size of these flocks was somewhat surprising to us, in view of the large groups composed of many species one sees in feeding aggregations. Flocks of two species were commonest, of one species next, and of three or four species the least common, with no noticeable correlation of flock size with species composition.

In flocks of more than one species, birds of fairly similar size tended to occur together, as: Whimbrels and Willets or Marbled Godwits, Whimbrels and Greater Yellowlegs, Greater and Lesser yellowlegs, yellowlegs and dowitchers, dowitchers and Knots, and dowitchers and "peep" sandpipers. There were possibly more flocks of Whimbrels alone than of any other species or combination. The descending order of abundance of individuals of all species seemed to be as follows: Semipalmated Sandpiper (including other "peeps" such as Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, and Pectoral Sandpiper, most of which were of uncertain identification in the air at a distance), Whimbrel, dowitcher, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Knot, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Marbled Godwit. Not even rough counts were made, but on any one good day there must have been at least many hundreds each of Whimbrels, Greater Yellowlegs, Willets, dowitchers, and "peeps", and scores of Knots, Lesser Yellowlegs, Marbled Godwits, and possibly others. These figures may all be far too conservative, in view of our spotty and incomplete coverage.

Most flocks flew at elevations of only one to ten feet above the water, flats, or marsh vegetation, especially in the vicinity of the Battery Island-Oak Island marshes. Many of the flocks of the larger species flying along the ocean beach, however, were from 30 to 150 feet high.

The most continuous and detailed observations were made during the period of July 16-19, when the wind was steadily from the southwest at estimated speeds from 6 to 22 mph, and the sky varied from clear to cloudy. During these four days, flights of all species were seen passing through more or less continuously all day long from dawn to dusk, with possibly the heaviest movements in the last hour or two before dark. They might have flown all night, also, but we were unable to determine this.

Nearly all flocks were flying in compact form at moderately fast rates along what seemed to be definite, unswerving, and pre-selected lanes. If the lines of flight were being immediately directed by the birds' responses to entirely local conditions, then these selections were being made with sufficient ease, rapidity, and distance ahead to provide great smoothness, efficiency, and uniformity of movement.

Figure 1 shows the particular flight lanes we were able to identify. The "Battery Island" lane was the only one in the Southport-Battery Island sector. Birds following this lane went on either side of Battery Island, thence southwestward three miles in a swinging arc across the river and the Oak Island marshes to the juncture of the marsh, woods, and outer beach, at which point they went up and over the telephone wires and then down again close to the strand as they flew on straight westward and out of sight.

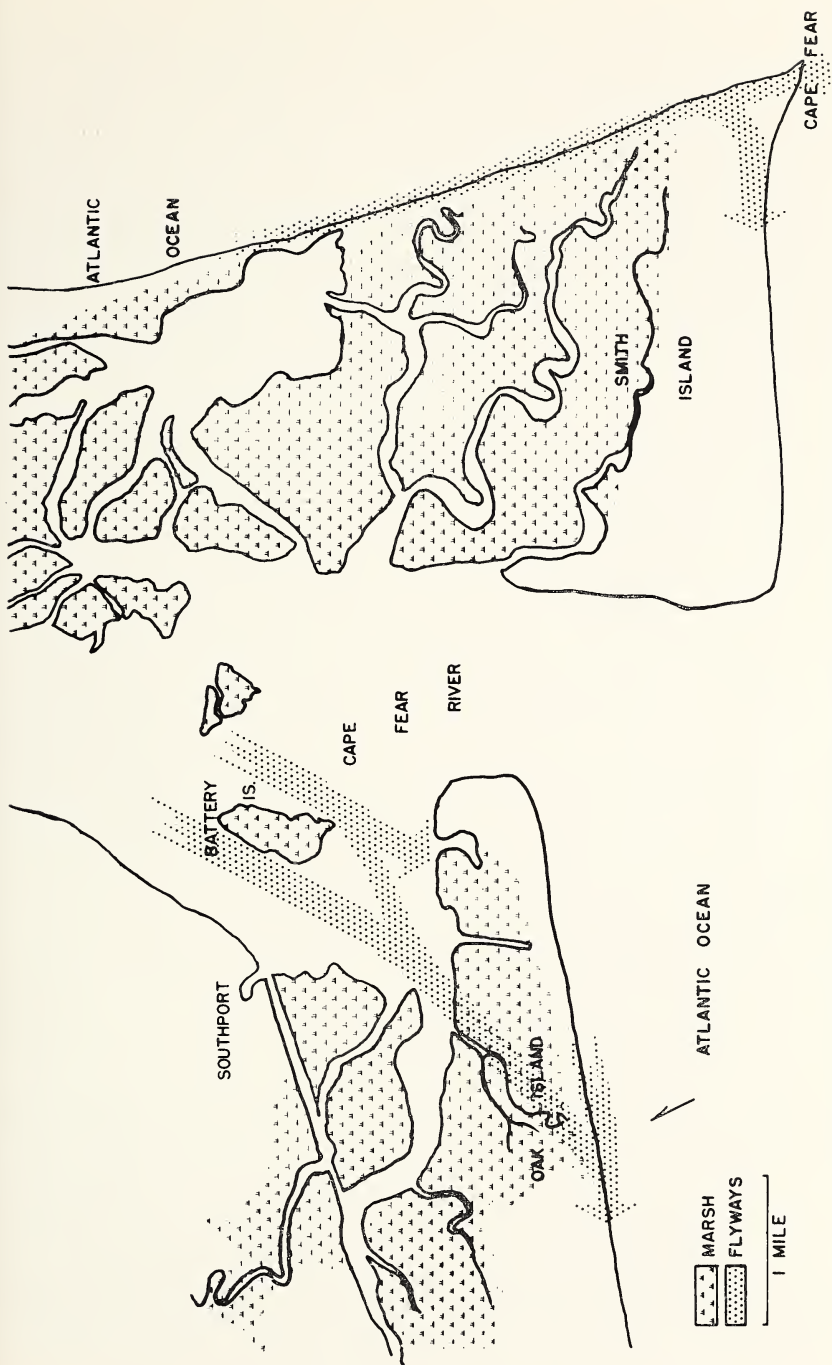


Figure 1. Map of the Southport-Cape Fear region, showing the known migratory flight lanes.

The other lanes follow the beaches. The one south off the point of Cape Fear was discovered accidentally by Adams. On several boat trips in that vicinity in early August, he saw small groups of Whimbrels and Greater Yellowlegs (and Barn Swallows) from one to two miles offshore and headed southward at 90-150 feet high. Did these birds soon discover their error as they quickly went out of sight of land, or did they continue on their route to sea and perish?

Other questions remain. What additional flight lanes are there? Are there really a number of specific lanes, or do these shorebirds make a broad sweep through the whole of the Southport-Cape Fear axis? Why do some birds follow the ocean beaches and others apparently take short cuts across the marshes and river? Where do the ones going past Battery Island or across the Smith Island marshes first come in from the beach? What differences are there in relation to weather and the advance of the season? Why did we not also see plovers and oystercatchers in passage (these species were seen feeding and resting in the area), instead of only sandpipers? The answers to these and other interesting questions can best be determined by a team effort, with observers at strategic points at the same time.

North Carolina State College,

Raleigh, North Carolina,

November 18, 1961.

A USE OF MIST NETS IN TEACHING ORNITHOLOGY

BY DAVID W. JOHNSTON

For many years non-Americans, especially Italians and orientals, have used fine-meshed nests to capture birds principally for food. More recently similar nets have been imported into this country to be used by bird-banders, these nets being popularly called "Japanese Mist Nets" or simply "Mist Nets." With respect to small birds, these nets have proven to be effective in the capture of individuals for banding, many people having attested to the advantages of nets over other types of traps. Although nets are used principally for banding, some ornithologists also use the netted birds for studies of molt, fat deposition, and weights. It is likely that the use described below, though an important one, is not original.

In the fall of 1961, our class in Vertebrate Natural History at Wake Forest College set up five mist nets near Bethania, North Carolina. The terrain chosen was a floodplain forest with dense undergrowth. Once a "path" in the vegetation was cleared, the nets each stretched about 40 feet long and five feet high. From September 25 until October 5, the nets were put into operation about 9 AM, checked at noon and again at 5:30 PM, at which time they were taken down for the night. During this time the temperature ranged from a high of 92° to a low of 44°; in the daytime, the average temperature was about 70°. A weak cold front moved through the area on September 27, and a stronger one brought light rain for a few hours on October 3. Otherwise, in the absence of wind and rain, conditions were ideal for netting small birds.

In this period of about two weeks, seventy birds representing fifteen species were caught and banded. These were: Brown Thrasher, 5; Catbird, 17; Yellow-breasted Chat, 1; Swainson's Thrush, 3; Indigo Bunting, 21; Carolina Chickadee, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Chipping Sparrow, 1; Carolina Wren, 3; Ovenbird, 2; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1; Cardinal, 7; Yellowthroat, 1; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 1; Eastern Phoebe, 2.

To the class the most apparent advantage of netting birds was the opportunity to handle each bird and to observe quite closely the field characteristics depicted in guides such as "Peterson." In only one instance were the students unable to identify immediately and accurately a bird in the hand, and that was a ruffled, immature Chipping Sparrow. Otherwise, by looking carefully at the bird, then at pictures in various books, the usual field characteristics were quickly associated with the correct species. Obviously, the students were able to note many features close-up, proving to them (and to me) that the "bird in the hand" is worth much more than many "in the bush."

Still, we were able to observe much more than merely the identification of an individual bird. Some of these additional features were as follows:

1. Comparisons between closely-related or similar-appearing forms. Which one of us has not, at some time or other, confused "thrush" with "thrasher?" Opportunity was afforded to hold in one hand a fighting Brown Thrasher with its bold yellow eye and a somewhat subdued Swainson's

Thrush in the other. A Swainson's Thrush was also easily compared with the similar Gray-cheeked Thrush; in this case, the conspicuousness of the eye-ring was noted, a feature not always easy to observe in the field.

2. Sex and age differences. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak was an immature male, as shown by the brownish hue of the plumage. All the Downy Woodpeckers were males; the red feathers on the head, sometimes obscure when observing the bird with binoculars, were plainly evident. Of special note was the presence or absence of molt, thus indicating, in some instances, age of the bird. For example, only two of the Catbirds but most of the Cardinals were molting primaries and/or rectrices bilaterally. Since most small passerine species in their postjuvenile molt do not replace these feathers in the autumn, these molting individuals were judged to be adults.

3. Behavior. Of interest to students were the aggressive natures of Brown Thrashers, Carolina Wrens, and Downy Woodpeckers, especially as these birds were placed temporarily in a small holding cage. In fact, it seemed clear that one or more Catbirds and Indigo Buntings were injured as the result of attacks by one of these three species. The students were able to see the rapid wing movements of the thrushes and the interesting head-bobbing of the Ovenbird. In this last instance, an Ovenbird was held by the tarsi and the hand holding the bird was slowly moved up and down or sideways. The head of the bird tended to remain stationary.

4. Physical condition. By gentling blowing apart the feathers of the neck and abdominal regions, it was possible to observe massive quantities of fat (in the buntings and Catbirds) or its absence (in the Cardinals, chickadee, etc.). At this point migratory habits were correlated with this extra "fuel supply." In one or two instances, a deformation of the toes indicated a past history of foot-pox.

5. Obscure plumage details. In the field it is not easy to observe the light orange crown patch of an immature Ovenbird, but this patch could be seen on the bird we captured. Considerable variation was noted among the Indigo Buntings, from individuals showing much blue in the wings to those lacking the blue entirely. We considered those birds with the most blue as adult males, even though all had apparently ended their autumnal molt. In any event, it was of interest to see that many of the head and breast feathers appeared to be brown but their bases were blue. Thus, we could postulate that in the spring, some of the blue coloration so conspicuous in this species is caused by wear of the feather tips.

Perhaps the greatest immediate advantage of handling netted birds is the opportunity to see clearly all field characteristics. Nonetheless, as we continue these operations through the years, we will also emphasize the study of bird movements by using banded birds, and, if we are fortunate, we will capture a banded individual. Already, one of our Mourning Doves, caught in a net and banded in January, 1960, was recovered this fall by a hunter only five miles away.

*Department of Biology,
Wake Forest College,
Winston-Salem, North Carolina,
November 7, 1961.*



BACKYARD BIRDING

As you all know, letters are the backbone of this department. We are always eager to hear from anyone who has kept a record of the birds around their home or has had some unusual experience. So remember, we love to get letters!

Columbia, S. C.
Sept. 8, 1961

Dear Mrs. Faver,

This summer we have had two interesting occurrences with our backyard birds that I think your readers might enjoy.

Our Carolina Wren, which up until this year has chosen most prosaic nesting sites, decided to be unusual and build in a wooden barrel that substitutes for our dog's kennel.

The barrel is turned on its side and is, of course, open at one end. But the wren decided to do things the hard way and to carry nesting material in through a small bung hole midway up the side of the barrel. Also, instead of flying over the kennel fence, she chose to fly through it when taking material in. Since I felt that the dog would resent sharing his bed with a family of wrens, I relentlessly threw out her building materials. After several sessions, she admitted defeat and began investigating other likely sites.

Some time later, as I was removing the lawn rake from our outside storage room, I brushed against an old pair of hunting pants that were hanging on a wall hook. Out popped a wren right in my face. After it fled, I gently lifted the pants off the hook and peered down inside. Fully half of the right leg was crammed with pine straw, and there, in the seat of the pants, in a neat cup of leaves and grasses, were three eggs! I returned the pants to the hook and propped the door open to give her the right-of-way.

She eventually laid five eggs and successfully brought off four young. When they were nearly fledged, they would climb up from their "seat" and perch on the waistband, scolding belligerently when we came to the storage room door.

A Wood Pewee raised three young which she brought to the yard to feed. They had been perching on the back fence while the parent brought insects to them. (I am presuming that the adult was the female.) I never saw but one adult with the young.

This morning, the bird changed her tactics. After catching the prey, she would fly to a nearby tree and call the young. All three would fly toward her and she, meeting them in mid-air, would feed one of them on the wing. They repeated this performance many times during the morning. I have watched swallows feeding their young in this fashion, but this is the first time I had seen one of the flycatchers doing it.

Good birding and best wishes,
Vivian Smith

December, 1961

From Roaring Gap, North Carolina, Mrs. W. C. Davison sends the following observations, gathered between March 29 and September 8, 1961:

We opened our cottage here on March 29. As soon as I scattered sunflower seeds on the lawn where I had fed the birds in past years, a male Towhee and a pair of Cardinals flew in. They crouched close to the ground as if for warmth and shelter from the northwest wind. There were a couple of Song Sparrows in our meadow, a Phoebe by the brook, and a Kingfisher in a dead tree over the west pond. Small flocks of Robins were seen flying toward the northwest. A Louisiana Waterthrush was working down the brook. The temperature fell below freezing several nights, and on April 1 and 3 there were snow flurries.

I was away until April 25. By then, the Redwings had arrived and some had started building nests in the alders and rushes on the edge of the two ponds. In the next six weeks I found seven nests, six with four eggs each and one with three. The mother would usually fly away when one got within 50 feet of her nest, but the male would fly over the intruder, calling; most of them flew at heights of about thirty feet, but one would come only about five feet over my head. The males spent much time on guard near the nests and I saw them chase away crows, a couple of Spotted Sandpipers, and a small hawk. On May 19, a Great Blue Heron visited the west pond and hunted along its edge for over twenty minutes. All this time a pair of Redwings flew within six feet of him, and perched on bushes close by, calling. They did not attack the heron.

On July 6, I saw a female Redwing on an Elderberry bush. The bush was heavily infested with large black aphids, which were tended by large black ants. The bird would peck at the stems and then turn her beak under first one wing and then the other. She kept this up for eight minutes, obviously "anting." A Catbird came and sat about four inches from the Redwing and watched her. When she flew off, the Catbird moved in, but it did not "ant."

I observed young Redwings leaving the nest from June 27 to July 20. This last date marked the peak of the Redwing population; by July 29, there were very few around. Then we saw none until August 25 when a flock of more than fifty wheeled high overhead.

A pair of Towhees have had a nest for the past three years in a very dense thicket of rhododendrons and catbriars. I have not succeeded in finding it, but have seen the birds carry in food. On June 12, the male came for sunflower seeds on the lawn, followed by a begging young bird. On June 21, a male was cracking seeds for three young, feeding them the kernels. The young picked up seeds themselves, but their bills weren't strong enough or they hadn't learned how to crack them. Two days later one of the young, after repeated attempts, did succeed in cracking a seed. The next day, June 24, all three were able to feed themselves. They continued to come for seeds, always with the male, for several weeks. The female was not seen.

There were a few Purple Grackles around also. A male and two females were first seen on May 12, feeding at the edge of the brook. On May 17, I saw one of them in the top of a large white pine. On May 22, two were building a nest in the fork of a branch about ten feet from the top of another seventy-foot white pine. On June 6, the pair was carrying food to the nest. By the last week in June, they had left the area.

In other years, I have always had Bluebirds nesting in two boxes and raising two broods each. This year there was none. A pair of House Wrens used one box and then the other for their second brood. They may have run off any interested Bluebirds. I had seen males twice inspecting the boxes, but no females. They are extremely scarce, not over four seen all year.

We had Robins and Phoebes nesting here also, the latter on the wall of a culvert under Highway 21. They brought off two broods. In other years these Phoebes had always nested on a rafter under our porch roof.

Indigo Buntings are very common here. On August 9, I found the nest of one pair when both birds tried to lead me away from it. It was about two feet up in the fork of a blackberry bush in a rough pasture. In the nest were three young wearing down and quills from which the feathers had not grown. It took the mother bird an hour to get up her courage to return to the nest. (I was sitting in a thicket thirty feet away.) All this time she was moving about within a radius of ten feet with a large green insect in her beak. Once a Song Sparrow came to perch beside her, and seemed very curious about her actions. The following day, a young bunting, probably one of the previous brood, followed her about, begging to be fed, but she drove it away. The male was usually within thirty feet of the nest but I did not see him bring any food. Unfortunately, hogs were turned into this field on August 13. One of them came across the nest and ate the young. The pair, with the young of the former brood, hung around for two or three days, then were seen and heard no more.

The pair of Cardinals came for sunflower seeds all summer. I have seen the male feed the female from spring until August 21. I hadn't realized they kept up this behavior so long. It was always the same pair. The male had spots of gray feathers on the left side of his breast, so I knew them well.

We have a very large picture window, facing west. Several times hummingbirds have flown into it, but were apparently not seriously hurt. One, after hitting the window, did fly about ten feet at much less than her usual speed, then made two circles about three feet in diameter, finally perching in a tree for about a half hour. Then she departed at usual speed. A female Indigo Bunting was killed by flying into the window in June. On July 1, a Louisiana Waterthrush hit it at dusk and fell, stunned, into the flower bed below. I picked it up and examined it closely. There was no bleeding, so I replaced it on the ground. An hour later, it flew away.

A nighthawk flew into the windshield of our car on August 31, about eight-thirty in the morning. One wing was broken and there was blood at the end of its beak; it died instantly. We saw a single nighthawk on August 16; then a few on August 22. Then migration began in full swing, and from August 28 to September 3, they flew over in big flocks of from one hundred to three hundred, not only at dusk but during the day. Since then, only two or three stragglers have been observed.

The Cedar Waxwings have collected in flocks up to fifty. On September 4, we had a Blue-winged Teal among the reeds on our east pond in the afternoon. At seven-thirty on the morning of September 6, two Swainson's Thrushes were eating chokecherries in the top of a fifty-foot tree near our cottage.

* * * *

By the time this reaches you, cold weather will be with us. Please check the back issues of this department in *The Chat* for recipes and combinations to prepare for bird cakes and suet mixtures for your bird feeders. Keep feeders free of ice and snow, and in very cold spells offer your birds something besides cold metal objects to light on. Remember how your fingers stick to the ice tray of your refrigerator? Use cardboard or wooden boxes on wire feeders. For game birds, you might construct a trash pile of discarded Christmas tree and evergreens in a secluded corner, then keep one side free of snow and stocked with grain. Also provide fresh water. If it is not practical to use one of the gadgets that keep the birdbath water from freezing, put out a fresh supply in early morning and late afternoon. A running stream is a natural source and will freeze only in extreme weather. Offer food, water and shelter throughout the bitter days of January and February and you will help keep many birds alive when natural food is at its lowest.—A. R. FAVER, *Dept. Editor, Eastover, S. C.*



GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. Burnham Chamberlain, Thomas W. Simpson, MD., Wendell P. Smith, Ivan R. Tomkins, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Wadmalaw Island, S. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

Pileated Woodpecker Breeding in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina—The Pileated Woodpecker “. . . is a wild, shy bird, well able to care for itself and keep out of the way of aggressive and murderous mankind” (*Birds of North Carolina*, 1919). Supporting evidence of this statement is the fact that this big woodpecker successfully nested this summer in southwestern Mecklenburg County, N. C. Although the Pileated has apparently never been officially recorded in the county, we always expected to find it only in sizeable stands of timber along the Catawba River, but these contain many river cabins and boat landings. Here indeed the bird was finally recorded *and* found nesting, thanks to some alert field work by teen-age members of local bird clubs.

About the last week in April, 1961, Julian Meadows was observing birds along the Catawba River when he saw the Pileated Woodpecker and located the nest. The nesting hole, in the central branch, 12-14 inches in diameter, of a dead hickory tree, was about sixty-five feet up. The tree was fifty feet from the river cabin of Mr. C. C. Eason of Charlotte and ten feet from the river.

On May 7, Frank Ramsey and his father visited the site and observed two nestlings, their heads protruding from the hole. Frank reported the red head patch well developed. The adult (only one was seen at a time) would call from across the river about a minute before approaching the tree. Once at the nest the adult was very quiet although the young were noisy as feeding was imminent; the type of food could not be determined. After each feeding, the parent bird would depart with a fecal sac. While sixteen-millimeter color movies were being made, the adult would approach the nest but sit for two or three minutes, apparently disturbed by the camera's whir, before finally entering the hole.

On May 21, Mr. Eason reported to the Ramseys that he observed the parents calling repeatedly to the young and saw at least three leave the nest. Later he thinks he saw a total of six pileateds in the woods around his cabin, making a possible total of four young. On May 28, Frank saw a Yellow-shafted Flicker apparently cleaning out the hole for its own use. On July 4, the flicker went into the hole, but wasn't seen to leave for an hour and a half. Incubation possibly was underway. Mr. Eason had previously requested the Duke Power Company to remove the dead tree, but he became so enthusiastic over the “logcocks” that he promised to rescind the order; in addition, he performed a very real service by preventing one



Pileated Woodpecker at nest, May, 1961. Southwestern Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

Credit: William M. Smith

man from shooting the woodpeckers. We hope that he will "spare that tree" since it is well known that the pileated, if undisturbed, will return to the same tree year after year.—JOSEPH R. NORWOOD, *Charlotte, N. C., July 8, 1961*. (On November 21, 1961, Mr. Norwood wrote: "I now find from personal notes of Mrs. E. O. Clarkson that there is an earlier record, February 21, 1948. On that date Dave Adams, Jim Layton and Heywood Bobbitt observed a pileated starting a nest at Camp Steere, Boy Scout camp, Mecklenburg County. The woodpecker was scared away and never completed the nest."—Ed.)

Wilson's Petrel at Litchfield Beach, S. C.—I saw a Wilson's Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) from North Litchfield Beach, Georgetown County, S. C., on August 2, 1961. The wind was offshore, and the petrel was flying south in the trough of a wave just outside of the breakers. I have no explanation as to why it was so close inshore. I have seen five Wilson's Petrels this summer but all were six to eight miles offshore.—MRS. E. D. SMITH, *Columbia, S. C., August 9, 1961*. (The Charleston Weather Bureau recorded an east wind up to 23 mph on August 1, and a southeast wind reaching 14 mph on August 2.—*Dept. Ed*)

An Undescribed Rookery On Hilton Head Island, S. C.—In April, 1961, a previously unknown rookery was discovered in the northwest section of Hilton Head Island, S. C. It was located in an isolated swamp known as Whooping Crane Pond. Because of its inaccessibility, it was probably not previously known as a rookery site, although it appears to have been one for some time. The rookery was discovered by Fred Hack, who ventured into the swamp in search of a nesting Cattle Egret. The swamp and an adjacent marsh, probably nourished by their own springs, are isolated from any similar biotic communities by expanses of pineland. They have remained in an undisturbed state.

The area is composed of three principal components: (1) a mature, open black gum swamp of about 15 acres. The swamp is oblong in shape, with water three to four feet deep throughout. The vegetation consists of black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*; 75-100 feet in height and 36-50 inches in diameter), sweet bay (*Magnolia virginiana*; 30-60 feet), sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), an understory of swamp leucothoe (*Leucothoe racemosa*), Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), common duckweed (*Lemna minor*), and coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*). (2) An open marsh of about 50 acres abruptly meets the swamp on its eastern and northeastern side. Its water is continuous with that of the swamp, but averages one foot deeper. Its vegetation consists of: maiden-cane (*Panicum hemitomon*), pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*), and cattail (*Typha* sp.). (3) A narrow margin on the western and southern sides of the swamp forms a transition to pineland. Here there is sweet gum, loblolly bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), and sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*). Open pineland surrounds the entire water area and margin. The dominant trees are slash and longleaf pine. A dense ground cover consists of wax myrtle, live oak, and saw palmetto.

The population of nesting birds seemed to consist of two separate groups. The first was predominantly *Ardeidae*. In June, these were replaced by another group consisting mainly of White Ibis. Mr. Hack and others who visited the colony in May and June estimated the number of pairs of nesting birds as follows: Louisiana Heron, 130; Snowy Egret, 120; Common Egret, 80; Black-crowned Night Heron, 30; Cattle Egret, 1. Flocks of White Ibis were seen, but no nests were found.

From July 21 to 24, I was able to enter the area and determine the population of the "second shift." On July 21, Mrs. J. P. Duane and I counted 275 active White Ibis nests. There were about 688 young. Several nests contained eggs and newly-hatched young, but the majority of the young were older. Since this species has an incubation period of about 21 days, this would place the initiation of ibis nesting activities at the end of June. In addition nests were found of: Louisiana Heron, 12; Black-crowned Night Heron, 10; Little Blue Heron, 5; Common Egret, 4; Anhinga, 2. The young of these species were well developed.

The nests ranged from 4 to 25 feet above the water. They were concentrated in areas where the lower vegetation flourished. Swamp leucothoe and sweet bay were used primarily, and occasionally sweet gum. Since this vegetation was most common along the eastern edge and in several places in the central area where there were fallen gum, the nesting took place in those areas. Ibis and Louisiana Heron nests were usually intermingled, whereas the other species tended to nest on the periphery of the colony. Predators in the area were Black Vultures and alligators.

In the past, the swamp has been protected by its isolation. With the increasing development of Hilton Head Island, there will probably be some disturbance, but the Hilton Head Company, owners of the land, is taking measures to preserve it in its relatively pristine state.—WILLIAM POST, JR., Aiken, S. C., September 1, 1961.

Great White Heron Reported at Hilton Head Island, S. C.—A Great White Heron (*Ardea occidentalis*) was sighted on Hilton Head Island, Beaufort County, S. C., at about 4:30 PM, September 17, 1961. We were walking along the edge of a small (salt) creek near its entrance into Port Royal

Sound on the north end of the island, when we spotted a very large white heron about 60 feet away on the mud bank of the creek. We had 7x50 binoculars (which were hardly necessary with such a clear view of a bird of this size) and a copy of Peterson's *Field Guide*, and we studied the bird in that position for some fifteen minutes, then walked closer so that it would fly. It flew a short distance and lighted on a small sign at the entrance of the creek where it stayed until we left the area.

We had a close clear side view of the heron. The greenish yellow color of its legs prompted us to look in the book mentioned, and that feature, together with its great size, convinced us that it was a Great White Heron. We are very familiar with the herons and egrets which frequent the island.

Upon mentioning our observation to Frank Arnold, S. C. State Entomologist, who has a good knowledge of birds, he stated that he might have been skeptical a few weeks earlier but that a recent sighting had been reported to him in (nearby) Beaufort.—MR. and MRS. DAVID MCG. HARRALL, *Hilton Head Island, S. C. October 10, 1961*. (We have not yet had the opportunity to get details on the observation referred to by Mr. Arnold. To our knowledge, the Great White Heron has never been taken in South Carolina, and in our opinion it should be on the state Hypothetical List.—Dept. Ed).

Broad-winged Hawk Breeding in Wayne County, N. C.—On July 7, 1961, a Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) was seen near the lake at Cliffs of the Neuse State Park in Wayne County, N. C. Two days later a nest containing one young bird was found in the fork of a pine near the lake. The nest and young bird were observed daily until July 28, when it left the nest. The adult bird was seen at least a dozen times during this period carrying food to the nest. The "peewee" voice was distinctive. This may be an eastern nesting record for the Broad-winged Hawk in North Carolina.—RICHARD H. SILER, *Seven Springs, N. C., August 1, 1961*.

Another Coot Nesting In South Carolina.—The first definite indication of an American Coot (*Fulica americana*) nesting in South Carolina was reported from the Magnolia Gardens near Charleston in 1959 (*Chat*, 23:64), and subsequently nests and eggs were found (*Chat*, 24:75.)

On July 20, 1961, I discovered a Coot nest near Williston, Barnwell County, S. C. The nesting site was in a "Carolina bay" along route 37, 3 miles SW of Williston.

I had noticed a female Mallard along the edge of the water, and suspected her of nesting. This suspicion proved groundless, so I wandered into deeper water, coming upon the Coot nest quite by chance. I recognized the eggs as those of a Coot. The nest contained two warm eggs, and was constructed of leaves and stems of maiden-cane (*Panicum hemitomon*). The water was three feet deep, and the nest was about 80 feet from the water's edge. I searched further and saw a Coot in the vicinity.

On July 24, a Coot was near the nest. On the other side of the "bay," another coot was accompanied by three chicks. Altogether there were five adults in the area. On July 26, one egg remained. The other was pipped and probably in the process of hatching. The adult was followed by a newly-hatched chick.

The "bay" is about 40 acres in size, and averages three feet in depth, with a regular, sloping bottom. It is circular, and covered by a thin growth of maiden-cane, which thickens along the edges.

Also noted in the area, and probably breeding, were American Bittern, Least Bittern, and Common Gallinule. Two active and two empty Pied-billed Grebe nests were found.—WILLIAM POST, JR., *Aiken, S. C., July 29, 1961*.

American Golden Plover on the S. C. Coast.—On the afternoon of September 13, 1961, I arrived at Litchfield Beach, Georgetown County, S. C. On the beach there were many shorebirds, including, among other things, turnstones and Greater Yellowlegs. In this concentration of birds, I also saw a Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*). This bird was comparatively tame and could be approached within 10 or 15 yards. It was not in fall plum-

age, being entirely black on the underside and having the golden-speckled back. The head of the bird, however, was not typical of full spring plumage, but seemed to be in the process of molting. I could not quite understand this as I did not believe that shorebirds started their molt at the head. I followed the bird up and down the beach until dark. The next morning, I found the bird again in the same location on the beach, and observed it for approximately a half-hour. Upon my return to the beach later, it had disappeared and was not seen again.—HERMAN W. COOLIDGE, *Savannah, Ga., September 18, 1961.*

Least Terns Again Nesting at Lake Murray, S. C.—Least Terns (*Sterna albifrons*) have again nested on the same small island in Lake Murray where they were found last summer. They began arriving at the lake in early April, and by mid-May they were there in about the same numbers as last year. On June 1, the island was covered by two or more feet of water and, although the terns were present, there was no evidence of nesting activity elsewhere on the lake.

By July 1, the water level had receded enough to expose the island, and it remained at approximately that level until August 1, when it dropped another foot. On August 27, we found several downy young with primary feather shafts just emerging. The adults flying around numbered not more than fifty. This nesting date is about the same as that of the late broods of last summer.

When we first approached the island on August 27, a flock of larger terns numbering 100 or more got up from the far side of the island. We allowed them to settle again and then got close enough to them to determine that they were Common Terns. In early September, Black Terns appeared all over the lake in fair numbers.—MRS. ELLISON D. SMITH, *Columbia, S. C., September 8, 1961.*

Red-cockaded Woodpecker Nesting in Wayne County, N. C.—On April 8, 1961, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (*Dendrocopos borealis*) were observed near Seven Springs, N. C., and on April 16 a nest was located. Since that time I have made many observations of these birds, accompanied on several occasions by Travis Herring. Shortly after finding the active nest, I found an apparently abandoned nest about 50 yards away, and on August 1, a new nest was found under construction about 50 yards from the other two. On August 5 there was a new hole about five feet above this one. All were in living pines approximately 14 inches in diameter, and were from 25 to 35 feet above the ground. The area was fairly open with several large pines and a heavy undergrowth of Sparkleberry, Huckleberry, Muscadine, Wax Myrtle, and Gallberry. The ground cover was mostly St. Andrews Cross, Rattlebox, and Poison Oak.

Almost always two birds were together, but occasionally a third bird appeared. It was chased away. Fresh resin was running from some of the holes. The presence of eggs or young was not definitely established.—RICHARD H. SILER, *Seven Springs, N. C., September 20, 1961.* (Excavations in August may point to failure to produce a brood earlier in the summer. It is hoped that evidence of successful nesting can be obtained at this site next summer. Wayne County is farther inland than most nesting sites recorded in North Carolina.—*Dept. Ed.*)

Barn Swallow Nesting in Northwestern South Carolina.—Sprunt and Chamberlain (*South Carolina Bird Life*, 1949) report only two breeding records for Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) in South Carolina, these being from Cape Romain lighthouse. The first record was by E. Milby Burton who found young birds at a nest on June 24, 1946. Two years later, June 29, 1948, two nests with young birds in the nests were found at the same place by Henry C. Rucker and Hoyt Mills.

On July 10, 1961, I saw a Barn Swallow flying around the Excelsior Mill village across the Hartwell Reservoir (Seneca River) from Clemson, Oconee County, S. C. A few days later I saw two birds at about the same place. On July 19, I discovered a nest with four or five young being fed by their parents. The nest was on the brick wall of a house that had been

vacated along with several others for several weeks in preparation for the rising water of the Hartwell Reservoir. This nest was on the porch.

Five adults were flying around the area, but only one nest was found. Prospects of a colony being established seem rather remote because these empty houses will be moved before next spring.—GASTON GAGE, *Clemson College, Clemson, S. C., July 24, 1961*. (Since the appearance of *South Carolina Bird Life* there have been several records of Barn Swallows breeding along the coast of South Carolina, some as far south as Folly Island, just below Charleston [*Chat*, 17:96, 22:83, 23:90]. The 1961 Nesting Season issue of *Audubon Field Notes* contains a contribution from J. Fred Denton, recording a Barn Swallow nest with young under an old boat dock at Edisto Beach, S. C., on July 12, 1958. It was found by Dr. Irvine Phinizy of Augusta, Ga., an old associate of the late Dr. Eugene Murphey. The colony at Cape Romain has spread to sites at McClellanville and at a neighboring plantation, and again this summer the birds bred on Folly Island. The present record from Oconee County is the first report to come to us of nesting in northwestern South Carolina. It helps to extend the known breeding range below western North Carolina.—*Dept. Ed.*).

Wing-flashing by Nestling Mockingbirds.—In the course of watching Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottis*) wing-flashing on our lawn on Wadmalaw Island, S. C., in the summer of 1961 I witnessed an occurrence on July 30 that is noteworthy. Wing-flashing by fledgling mockers has often been observed, and it is doubtless as commonplace as the teetering of a newly hatched Spotted Sandpiper. In this case, four nestling Mockingbirds were unintentionally thrown out of the nest a week or more prematurely and two of them wing-flashed repeatedly. The other two did not have the opportunity to do so.

The nest, located nine to ten feet above the ground in a pear tree, was pulled down in the belief that it was not occupied, and the nestlings plummeted to the ground. One was killed upon contact. Another was so badly shaken that it did not resist replacement in the restored nest. It remained there for three or four days and probably fell prey to a predator. Two of the young, apparently uninjured by the fall, feebly hopped and tumbled across some 30 feet of lawn toward a coaxing adult. On the way, each of them wing-flashed several times. The action was quite deliberate and separate from the extensive wing balancing action they exhibited.

The wing-flashing individuals were not captured, but it is improbable that they survived. Apparently they were very close in size and weight to the bird that was killed. The body weight of that individual was 38.9 gms. The longest primary, the sixth, measured 35 mm. and of that length, 27 mm. were still in a sheath. That is, only a short tuft of plume had emerged from the sheath. In contrast with the undeveloped wing, the tarsus measured 30 mm. and the middle toe and claw measured 25 mm. These latter measurements are very close to those of the adult mocker. To round out the data, the temperature at the time of wing-flashing was 90°, which may have a greater bearing on wing-flashing than we know.—B. RHETT CHAMBERLAIN, *Wadmalaw Island, S. C., October 10, 1961*.

A Yellow-throated Vireo at Raleigh in Mid-winter.—A Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) visited our feeder at Raleigh, N. C. on December 16, 1960, at about 3:30 P.M. It had the yellowest yellow throat and breast I have ever seen, with olive-green back and head, and white wing bars. Also, there were thin white edges on the wing feathers which made scallops when against the back. It was about the size of a Pine Warbler, but there were no streaks in the yellow. Our feeder is about fifteen feet from a picture window from which the bird was observed. My next door neighbor saw it at her feeder also. Harry Davis at the State Museum suggested that I report it since this bird was not supposed to be in North Carolina in December.—MRS. JOHN L. LAMSON, *Raleigh, N. C., January 9, 1961*. (This is the second winter record of this species in North Carolina that we know of. A single bird, which possible was an extremely early arrival, was reported near Wilmington, February 28, 1954, by Clifford Comeau [*Chat*,

18:57). One is listed with a group of birds reported as wintering at Wilmington during the 1946-1947 season (*Chat*, 11:74). However, in our attempt to verify this occurrence, we learned in a letter from Mrs. Cecil Appleberry, dated August 29, 1961, that this species should not have been included in that list. She requested that we publish this correction.—*Dept. Ed*).

A Fish Crow Roost at the S. C. Fall Line.—In September, 1961 I found a roost of Fish Crows (*Corvus ossifragus*) at Langley, S. C., seven miles east of Augusta, Ga. On September 23, I counted 2870 crows as they approached the roost. This number varied little during my visits. In the evening these birds approached from the southwest, and in the morning flew back toward the same direction. By following these flight lines, I found that they originated from the south-southwest in an area along the Savannah River. The crows flew north along the river and then northeast along Horse Creek, which leads directly to the roost.

During the day, the Fish Crows foraged along the Savannah River in areas at least twelve miles from Langley. This is an agricultural area of corn and hay fields adjoining fairly continuous but narrow river swamps. In the daytime they remained in large flocks, but I could not find at what point they gathered into one massive flock for the flight to the roost. On September 28, two flocks of about 200 Fish Crows flew out of a swamp and headed north along the river. It is possible that many such groups joined together as they approach the roost. The Fish Crows invariably arrived at the roost in one large extended flock. The duration of its passage varied from five to twenty minutes.

On six occasions from September 14 to October 5, the first Fish Crows arrived at the roost at times varying from seven minutes before to eighteen minutes after sunset. The movement into the roost ended from twelve minutes to 25 minutes after sunset. On one morning visit (September 14) the birds began flying out of the roost 25 minutes before sunrise. The flight out ended at one minute after sunrise.

In the evening, the crows flew at 250 to 350 feet. In the morning they flew out at a lower height, many birds dropping out to feed along the way. However, they all flew out in the same direction on the same route. The crows were silent as they approached in the evening. In the morning, before leaving, and as they flew out, they were very raucous. The evening flight proceeded in a leisurely fashion. With a slight wind, the crows alternately sailed and flapped. Some individuals performed aerial acrobatics, diving to lower altitudes and dodging to the side of the flock. Others would fly above the flock and reverse direction, joining it toward the rear. The majority of the birds immediately entered the roost upon arrival. Other groups gathered in trees about 75 yards away, and flew into the roost later. Several times when there were human disturbances nearby the crows flew over the roost in inspection and then flew to a pinewoods about 300 yards away. They would return later, as much as 30 minutes after sunset.

The area the Fish Crows chose for a roost was six acres of damp woods at the head of a dried lake bed. It was somewhat isolated by a creek on one side, and a boggy meadow on another. In the roost the Fish Crows occupied a small area of about six acres where the trees (tulip poplars and black gums) were largest. There was little undergrowth in this section. A thick growth of water oaks occupied the northern edge, probably affording protection from the wind. From the debris of the roosting crows it appeared that they were roosting in the upper part of the trees from 30 to 60 feet. Also occupying the roost were a number of herons and egrets. On September 14, 102 Little Blue Herons, 4 Common Egrets, 3 Snowy Egrets, 2 Louisiana Herons, and 1 Green Heron entered the roost from the southwest. These birds arrived in small groups over the period of an hour. The majority were in the roost before the arrival of the Fish Crows. The herons gradually diminished in numbers, and none was seen after October 3.

The Fish Crows were probably using this specific area as a roost because of the protection afforded by the vegetation and surrounding water. Entrance into the area was difficult from any direction. During the daytime no Fish Crows were seen in the vicinity of the roosting area. The majority therefore appeared to travel at least 12 miles daily.—WILLIAM POST, JR., *Aiken, S. C., October 5, 1961.*

Baltimore Oriole Breeding in Aiken County, S. C.—During May and the first week of June, 1961, there were several reports of Baltimore Orioles (*Icterus galbula*) being seen or heard in North Augusta, just across the Savannah River in Aiken County, S. C. On June 8, I investigated the area there and soon located a male Baltimore Oriole in a black walnut tree. The bird attracted my attention by uttering a low guttural call-note I had never heard before. Soon the bird flew to a nearby row of large hackberry trees and then returned to the same spot in the walnut tree. After the third such flight I discovered that it was feeding a young bird in the walnut tree—a bob-tailed bird just out of the nest, probably that morning. More pressing duties made me discontinue my search for the female, nest, and other young. However, this is sufficient evidence to conclude that at least one pair of Baltimore Orioles nested in North Augusta this spring.—J. FRED DENTON, *Augusta, Ga., August 8, 1961.* (The foregoing item is extracted with the author's permission from manuscript submitted for publication in *The Oriole*. Apparently this is the first evidence of the Baltimore Oriole nesting in South Carolina since 1943.—*Dept. Ed.*)

A Lark Sparrow in Dare County, N. C.—On August 6, 1961, my husband and I flushed a sparrow from the pavement of the highway just south of Whalebone Junction, Dare Co., N. C. Fortunately the flash of white on each side of the tail made us stop the car. The bird proved to be an immature Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*). Each time a car passed, the bird would fly away from the road a few yards and circle back to land either on the pavement or right beside the road.—MRS. J. M. POTTER, JR., *Zebulon, N. C., September 17, 1961.*

Lark Sparrow Again in Charleston County, S. C.—In the early afternoon of August 1, 1961, shortly after driving with my wife into the avenue to our home on Wadmalaw Island, S. C., we noticed a strange sparrow moving ahead of the car from perch to perch in a tree or on the barbed wire fence bordering the avenue. I stopped the car and the bird remained perched long enough for me to make a tentative identification, without binoculars. After reaching the house I returned at once, on foot, and armed with binoculars and Balscope (30x).

The equipment was hardly necessary. I found the bird with a Mourning Dove, apparently feeding in a sandy rut in the road. It allowed me to approach within 50 feet and set up my 'scope. I had no difficulty in seeing that it was a well-marked Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*). I had watched one at length the previous summer at the home of Paul and Tina Atwood on Edisto Beach, S. C. (*Chat*, 24:103).

This bird remained in our avenue until dark that day and until 1 PM the next day. At one time it flew, with a dove, into our yard. The face pattern seemed particularly fresh and prominent. In flight it seemed to flutter unnecessarily, as though reluctant to go very far, and in fluttering, the white patches in the outer tail feathers seemed abnormally large.—B. RHETT CHAMBERLAIN, *Wadmalaw Island, S. C. August 15, 1961.*

Red Crossbills in North Carolina in Late Summer.—During my vacation in 1961 at Blowing Rock, N. C., I saw Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*) in my yard. The first bird seen was a male, on August 22. On August 23, we saw a male and a female, and on August 25, we noted a flock of ten birds. On August 31, we counted 15 birds in a flock. Some birds were seen every day from August 22 to September 2, when I returned to Clemson, S. C.

The crossbills called frequently, and the males sang while perched in the top of pine trees. Three birds came down to drink in a rain puddle. One

of them was an immature male showing the stripes and the red splotches as illustrated by Fuertes in *Birds of America*.

As far as I could determine, the crossbills were feeding exclusively on seeds of white pine cones. These birds were also seen by Mrs. Gage, Rev. and Mrs. E. A. Smyth of Blacksburg, Va., as well as by several other people.—GASTON GAGE, *Clemson College, Clemson, S. C., September 5, 1961*. (We have learned of the appearance of a crossbill near Brevard in the summer of 1961, and we hope to present details of that observation in a future issue.—*Dept. Ed*).

NEWS AND COMMENTS

Report of Clemson Meeting—The fall field trip of the Carolina Bird Club was held at Clemson on October 6-8, 1961, with headquarters at the Clemson House. 75 members registered. Five groups of birders enjoyed the Saturday field trips with Mr. Richard Peake, Mrs. Joel Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. Gaston Gage, and Mr. Robert Shipman as guides. It so happened that the season was a little late for resident birds and a little early for migrants. 72 species were found.

Future Meetings of CBC—The midwinter meeting will have its headquarters at Mattamuskeet Lodge, New Holland, North Carolina, from January 12 to 14, 1962. The business meeting in March will be in Raleigh, North Carolina, March 23-25, 1962. At this time we will celebrate the Silver Anniversary of the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to necessary business to be conducted, this meeting has traditionally included the presentation of ornithological papers. The Spring field trip will be held at High Hampton Inn, Cashiers, North Carolina, May 18-20. This is one of the most popular places we have ever met, and we are returning there because of the many requests from members.

American Ornithologists' Union Meeting—The Annual meeting of the AOU was held in Washington, D. C., October 17-21, 1961. Attending from North Carolina were Charles H. Blake, Jack Hailman, David W. Johnston, and Wendell P. Smith. At the banquet on Friday night Wendell Smith was one of those honored for having contributed field records to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service files for more than 50 years. Congratulations to Mr. Smith! The 1963 meeting of this important organization is being planned for the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Spring Counts—B. Rhett Chamberlain has called attention to the necessity for compiling these accounts according to the format previously employed (see September issue). These accounts should be sent to him for compilation.

Request for Information—Migration of Buffleheads—A study of the Bufflehead is under way, and information on the migration of that species is needed. Data required include first arrival dates, peak date of migration and peak numbers, and departure dates. Only birds actually believed to be migrants should be listed, but, where pertinent, other data on wintering or summering numbers should be included. If only infrequent visits are made to areas frequented by Bufflehead, the statement "present by (date)" is preferable to "arrival (date)", and "last seen (date)" to "departure (date)". Information is solicited particularly for the spring migration of 1962, but it is hoped that interested observers will report any data they may have obtained in the past; requests for fall migration data will be made later. It is planned to colour-mark some Buffleheads in Maryland, New York, and Oregon during the winter of 1961-62, and observers should take particular note of any Buffleheads bearing bright patches of red, yellow, or orange. Please send information on the Bufflehead to: A. J. Erskine, Canadian Wildlife Service, P. O. Box 180, Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada.

BOOK REVIEWS

Alexander Wilson, Naturalist and Pioneer. Robert Cantwell. J. B. Lippincott Co., East Washington Square, Philadelphia 5, Pennsylvania. 319 pages, folio size with eight color plates. 1961. \$15.00.

Undoubtedly author Cantwell spent much time in research for the data in this fascinating book because it contains so many intricacies of Wilson's private life and personality. Beginning with Wilson's early days in Scotland as a weaver and poet, Cantwell follows him through his American experiences as an engraver, schoolteacher, and encyclopedia editor. In these capacities Wilson's obsession of nature, his moody and despondent days, his love affairs, and philosophy of democracy are described.

The impression left by this book is that Wilson had one consuming desire in life, completion of ten volumes of *American Ornithology*. His every journey (from Maine to Georgia, from Pennsylvania to Louisiana), his limited social life, his teeth-gritting determination to overcome financial and physical obstacles, his passion for painting and writing with scientific accuracy in spite of innumerable difficulties—all of these features marked the man as a rugged individualist. It is no wonder that Wilson has been called the "Father of American Ornithology" for many ornithologists still marvel at his completion of eight volumes on birds in about ten years.

Of particular interest to those of us in the Carolinas is the brief account of Wilson's trip through our area in 1809. In the vicinity of Wilmington he shot three Ivory-billed Woodpeckers, one of which lived for a time in captivity. There is also an observation of Whooping Cranes on the Waccamaw River on February 10, 1809.

This reviewer has only two criticisms of the book. The author tends to ramble occasionally from Wilson's life, though some of these ramblings do contribute indirectly to the story. It seemed that the author made little attempt to use acceptable and recognizable common names; it was disturbing to encounter such names as goosander, pewit, and towhee bunting. —DAVID W. JOHNSTON

A Coloured Key to the Wildfowl of the World. Peter Scott. Chas. Scribner's Sons, 597 Fifth Ave., New York 17, N. Y. \$3.50.

In this handy 96-page book there is contained valuable information for those who want to know their wildfowl. There are 23 four-color plates that depict in accurate detail the 247 species. To achieve this, a larger scale is used with the smaller birds so that detail can be shown. Conveniently the names and sex of the birds are on the plates along with pertinent notes. Closely-related species are grouped for convenient comparisons. Breeding habits and other needed information are listed on the pages opposite each plate.

To facilitate identification, 24 pages of the book are used to key the different birds by size, shape, bill shape, color, bill colors, voice, and behavior. To forestall the critic who finds a specimen not color-true, the author had a page labeled "If you are stuck." For the amateur there is a helpful chapter on names and classification.

For those who want to know their ducks, geese, and swans this book will prove to be a valuable source of information. This is especially true because of the seasonal plumage changes of these species, and the fact that fanciers and game farms have been getting birds from all parts of the world. Some escapes may present a problem in identification without such a book. —HARRY T. DAVIS

Bird Songs in Your Garden, complete with high-fidelity 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ rpm phonograph record. Text and photographs by Arthur A. Allen, phonograph record by Peter Paul Kellogg. Cornell University Records, a division of Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York, 1961. 24 pages. \$5.95.

It is a real pleasure to call attention to this attractive and useful guide and record. The subtitle explains well the purposes of the authors—"A guide to the *birds* and their *songs* commonly heard in the gardens of eastern United States and Canada." The booklet is written in the popular style of Arthur Allen and contains a brief account of each of the twenty-five species. No doubt the 53 photographs (many in full color) contribute greatly to the appearance of the booklet.

Equally as attractive—this time to the ear—are the impeccable recordings of these birds' songs. The species are arranged in the same order as the text, so that one can look at pictures, read about the bird, and listen to it sing simultaneously. On one side of the record the birds are announced; on the other side they sing without interruption so that one song gradually blends in with the following one. "The recording starts before dawn in an eastern garden with the awakening song of the Wood Pewee and ends after dark with the tremolo of the Screech Owl."—DAVID W. JOHNSTON

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

Anhinga, 2 nests on Hilton Head Island, S. C., held well-grown young on July 21, William Post, Jr. • **Ring-necked Duck**, 2 flocks of 50 or more on Lake Murray, S. C., September 26, Mrs. E. D. Smith. • **Common Scoter**, 2 small rafts, 21 and 25 birds, 2 miles off of Litchfield Beach, Georgetown County, S. C., September 24, Mrs. E. D. Smith. • **Common Merganser**, flock of 250 or more on Hartwell Lake, west of Anderson, S. C., September 24, Mrs. R. C. Tedards. • **Red-breasted Merganser**, 1 female, Ocean Drive Beach, Horry County, S. C., July 13, Jackson M. Abbott, Alexandria, Va. • **Peregrine Falcon**, 1 captured a Mourning Dove at Hartwell Lake, S. C., September 20, Mrs. R. C. Tedards. • **Sparrow Hawk**, 1, October 2 and 5, October 8, Wadmalaw Island, S. C., B. R. Chamberlain. • **Yellow Rail**, 1, apparently not well, killed by a cat and collected, McClellanville, S. C., January 12, Robert D. Edwards. • **Piping Plover**, 1, August 10 and 12, Holden Beach, S. C., L. Hartsell Cash. • **Long-billed Curlew**, 2, Ocean Drive Beach, Horry Co., S. C., July 13, Jackson M. Abbott. • **Whimbrel**, 8 or more, Ocean Drive Beach, S. C., July 13-16, Jackson M. Abbott; 8-10, Holden Beach, S. C., August 9, 11, 12, L. H. Cash. • **Pectoral Sandpiper**, 3 in a small bog in a cow pasture 2 miles east of Sumter, S. C., July 25, Mrs. E. D. Smith and Mrs. B. W. Kendall. • **American Avocet**, 1, for the record, at Pea Island, N. C., May 23, 1958, Mr. & Mrs. John R. Gatewood. • **Common Tern**, 7 over the lake at Langley, Aiken County, S. C., September 16, J. Fred Denton and William Post, Jr. • **Least Tern**, 1 feeding in lake at Langley, September 11, William Post, Jr. • **Royal Tern**, several pairs in parallel courtship flight over Deveaux Bank, Charleston County, S. C., March 24, B. R. Chamberlain. • **Caspian Tern**, 4, July 14, Ocean Drive Beach, S. C., Jackson M. Abbott. • **Black Tern**, 2 in full nuptial plumage over Rantowle's Pond, near Charleston, June 21, Francis M. Weston. • **Ground Dove**, 2 at Garden City Beach, S. C., July 12, Jackson M. Abbott. • **Saw-whet Owl**, note: the bird reported in the Sept., *Chat* to have died in captivity, at Lenoir, died of its injuries before it could be released. • **Hairy Woodpecker**, 1 in large oak on lawn on Wadmalaw Island, S. C., October 1, B. R. Chamberlain. • **Gray Kingbird**, 1, Edisto Beach, S. C., May 13, Mrs. Paul Atwood. • **Western Kingbird**, 1 at Moore's Landing, opposite Bull's Island, S. C., October 4, Mrs. A. W. Bachman. • **Purple Martin**, 2 active nests in traffic light fixtures at Conway, S. C., June 11, Dr. & Mrs. William G. Cobey. • **Worm-eating Warbler**, 1 at Winston-Salem, N. C., May 2, the John R. Gatewoods. • **Golden-winged Warbler**, 1, and **Blue-winged Warbler**, 1, May 4 at Winston-Salem, the Gatewoods. • **Bachman's Warbler**, 2 singing males were found in Charleston County between March 19 and the third week of May. One was watched by scores of observers, the location of the second bird being withheld for its protection. Both initially reported by the R. H. Colemans. • **Cerulean Warbler**, 1 male, found with broken wing at WJBF-TV tower near Aiken, S. C., September 6, William Post, Jr. • **Palm Warbler**, arrival noted at Winston-Salem, N. C., September 29, David W. Johnston. • **Yellow-breasted Chat**, 1 or more at Fort Fisher, N. C., May 28, June 9, July 14, Richard H. Siler. • **Canada Warbler**, 1 male at Langley, Aiken County, S. C., September 25, William Post, Jr. • **Bobolink**, flock of about 200 with no adult males, Wadmalaw Island, S. C., September 4 through 6, B. R. Chamberlain. • **Orchard Oriole**, 2 immature birds and 2 nests, 1 with young, at Surf Side on the upper S. C. coast, July 29, Dr. & Mrs. W. G. Cobey. • **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, male and female, May 6 & 11, Winston-Salem, Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Gatewood; 2 at Doughton State Park, Wilkes County, N. C., in full song, on June 30, Wendell P. Smith. • **Song Sparrow**, 1 at Bear Island Refuge, Charleston County, S. C., May 3, R. H. Coleman. *All dates 1961 unless otherwise noted.*—Compiled by B. R. Chamberlain.

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Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, chiefly in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

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Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	\$1.00	Contributing	\$25.00
Supporting	\$5.00	Affiliated Club	\$2.00
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All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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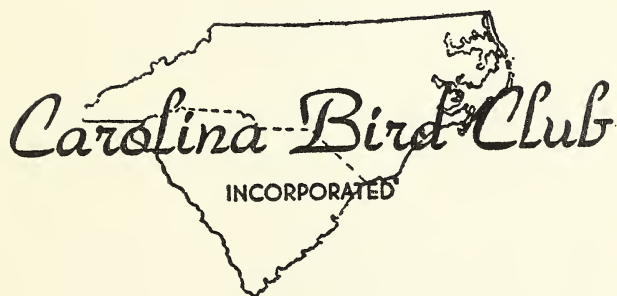
Index to The Chat



Volumes 1-25

Index to The Chat

Volumes 1-25



Compiled by Eloise F. Potter

FOREWORD

As the popularity of bird study increases in the Carolinas and as more zoology students in our colleges and universities make ornithology their primary sphere of interest, the need for a cumulative index to *The Chat* becomes more pressing than ever before. Even a casual glance through the present index will show that much was accomplished by Carolina Bird Club members during the first 25 years of publication, but much remains to be learned. Several species are in the process of making range extensions, and the status of other species is poorly known, particularly with reference to subspecies. Many aspects of behavior also need investigation. It is hoped that the index will stimulate research and facilitate the preparation of notes and papers for publication.

Every effort has been made to produce a practical index—as brief as possible without omission of significant notations. The 1957 AOU Checklist of North American Birds has been followed with cross references for common and scientific names formerly used. Scientific names were indexed only when given in the text. Species (unless bold face) and person's names in the Christmas and Spring Counts were not indexed, and neither were other members of observing parties or contributor's names in the Briefs for the Files. Wherever possible, locations have been grouped by counties or, if outside the Carolinas, by states.

Entries for Volumes 1-4 were adapted from the index prepared by Thomas L. Quay and published in Volume 5, Number 1. Because pages in some early volumes were not numbered consecutively throughout, a few references will have the issue number in parentheses following the bold face volume number. The first annual index was compiled by Kay Curtis Sisson for Volume 22. This index and subsequent ones prepared by Charles H. Blake and David W. Johnston were adapted for entries covering Volumes 22-25.

A special word of appreciation is due B. Rhett Chamberlain for his advice, encouragement and valuable assistance in preparation of the index. He read the entire manuscript and compared it with a file he has maintained as editor of the General Field Notes. Mr. Chamberlain's extensive knowledge of ornithology, particularly nomenclature, and his personal acquaintance with the numerous contributors enabled him to eliminate dozens of inconsistencies in the names of persons, places and species. It is no exaggeration to say that the job could not have been completed without his help.

In spite of careful correction of the manuscript and proofs, there will inevitably be some errors—glaring and otherwise—in the index. Anyone who notices an inaccuracy is requested to notify the editor in order that a list of errata may be published in a future issue of *The Chat*.

Eloise F. Potter

Zebulon, North Carolina
19 April 1964

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OF
THE CHAT**

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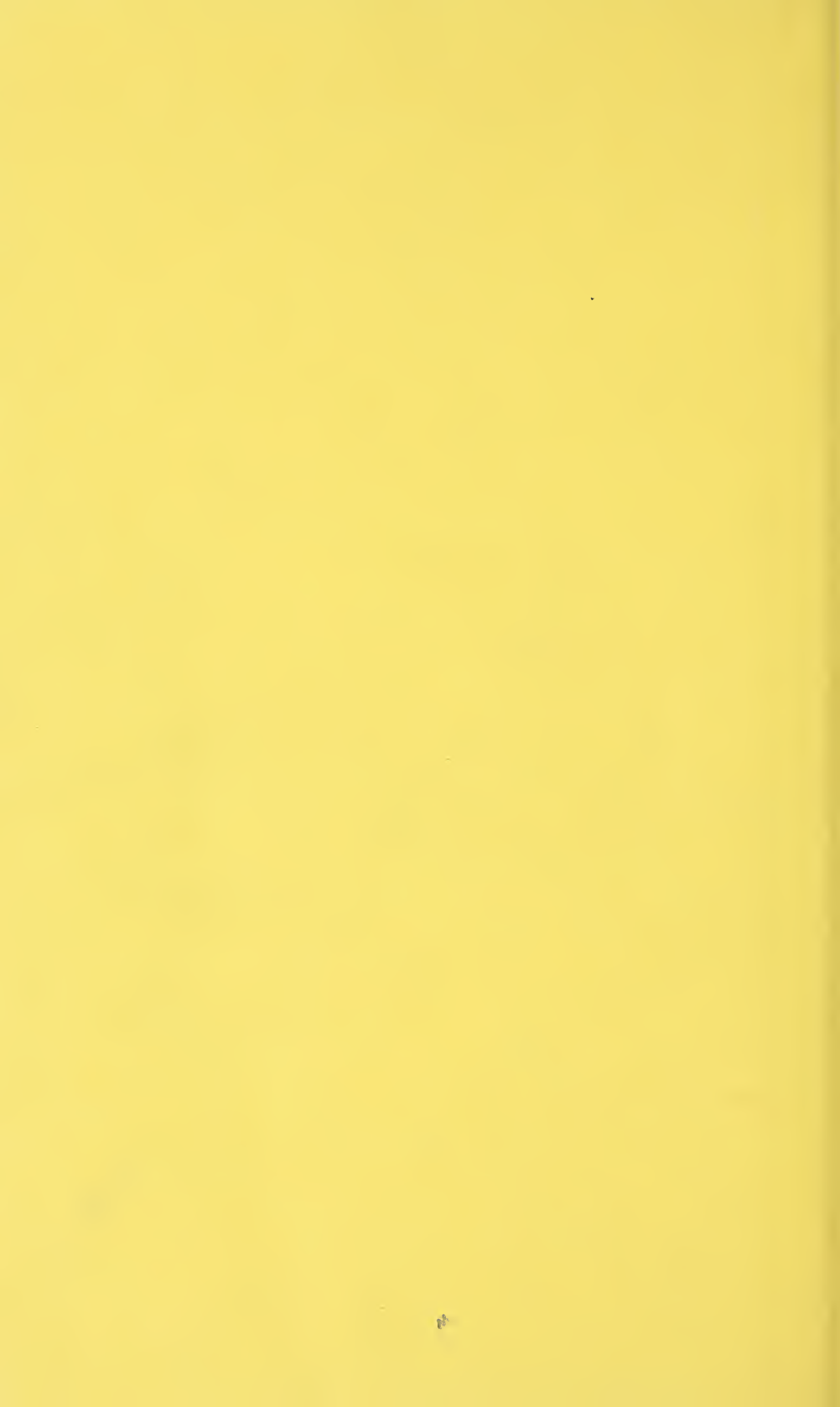
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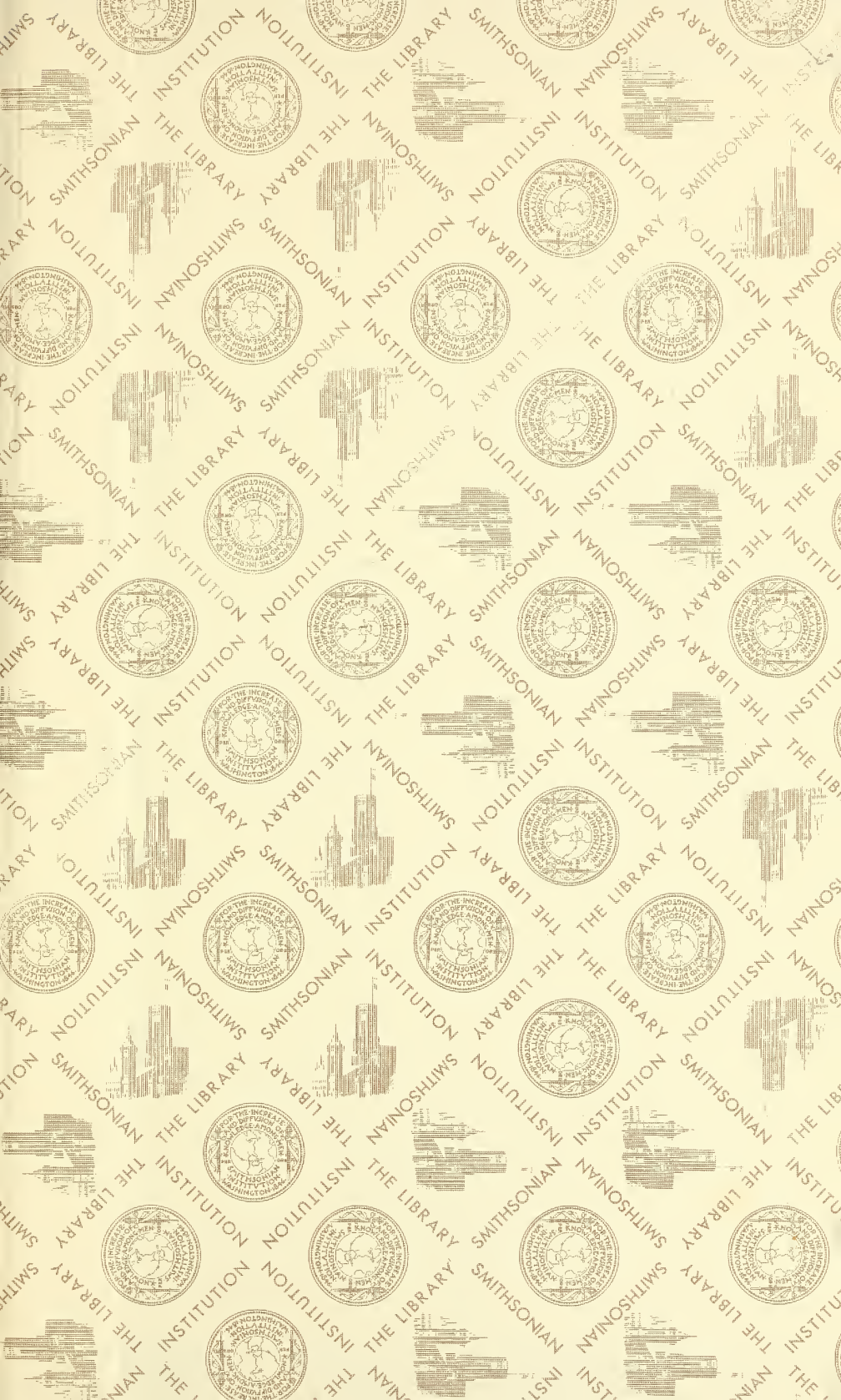
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